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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

IPI deadline extended to 2023

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Commonwealth government set to receive $175 million by 2023

The Commonwealth Lottery Commission on Monday extended for the third time the opening deadline of the Imperial Pacific Resort and Casino by six more years from now.

The commission amended the Casino License Agreement, or CLA, for the fifth time to extend the deadline to complete Phase 1 to Aug. 13, 2023, and the deadline to complete Phase 2 to Aug. 13, 2028.

Phase 1 involves the construction of the Imperial Pacific Resort and Casino in Garapan. Phase 2 involves the integrated resort in Marpi.

The previous deadline to complete Phase 1 was Aug. 31, 2018.

This means that the CNMI will get a total of $35 million every year from Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, representing the li-

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'80-pct. salary hike is problematic'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The $145-million fiscal year 2018 budget bill sailed through the House of Representatives on Monday on a handy vote of 17 "yeas" but failed to secure the backing of three opposition lawmakers, who questioned the inclusion of a clause that would give elected officials an 80-percent salary hike, while giving civil service employees just a 5-percent increase.

Voting against the bill—mainly because of the salary hike—were Reps. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan), Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and

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15-man crew to aid Calif. fight fire

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.coms
REPORTER

The CNMI will be sending today and tomorrow a 15-man crew to California to help the state fight forest fires.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services presented yesterday the crew, which consists of eight firefighters and seven civilians.

DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde said members of the 15-man crew were certified as Type II U.S. Forest Service Handcrew Firefighters.

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services assistant fire chief Jesse Mesa pose in a group photo with members of the 15-man crew as well as DFEMS officials/trainers during a press conference yesterday at the governor's office's conference room. The crew members will be deployed to California to assist in fighting forest fires.

AS PART OF DIVERT AND EXERCISE ACTIVITIES

Air Force plans to spend $375M to improve Tinian airport

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S Air Force disclosed it would be plunking down an estimated $375 million to improve the Tinian International Airport by building additional facilities and infrastructure.

The Air Force made this pronouncement during a public hearing last July 27 on its proposed Pacific Air Force Divert and Exercise Activities airport layout plan, according to Com-

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No one really got to know Sam Shepard—and that was the way he liked it.
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Local

CNMI marks second anniversary of Soudelor

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts proclamation yesterday as CARE director Jenny Hegland, right, Ty Pauling, second left, and CARE board chair Alex Sablan look on.

Two years since the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor, parts of Saipan is still working on getting back to its feet, with some still waiting for repairs to their homes.

However, much has been done to restore the island. In remembrance of the damage brought by the typhoon, a proclamation was signed yesterday by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to commemorate how resilient the island is, how far it has come, and how the community came together during the recovery process.

Typhoon Soudelor left over 700 individuals homeless, many individuals lost their belongings, and many homes were left damaged and unfit for human inhabitation. Fortunately, no lives were lost.

To aid Saipan's recovery, the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Effort was established solely to aid in the rebuilding and renovating of the many homes damaged by Soudelor. CARE was determined to not only rebuild homes, but to ensure that the homes are resilient to other possible threats.

Yesterday's proclamation signing also honored the recovery efforts led by CARE and its many volunteers. The signing was held at a house in Koblerville that the group recently rebuilt from the ground up.

Although there are still 177 individuals that are awaiting assistance in rebuilding their homes, the community should take a step back and reap the fruits of two years of labor, the proclamation stated.

Torres thanked the many individuals and agencies who sprung into action after Soudelor devastated the island.

According to Federal Emergency Management Agency emergency management specialist Nahru Harper, she first witnessed the disaster in slideshows and videos. However, upon coming to the island, Harper realized that there was more to the slides and the videos.

» Proclamation commemorates island's resilience

According to Harper, it was a blessing to be given the opportunity to come to the island and personally meet people who were devastated by the typhoon. Harper also mentioned how great it was to see how much FEMA had been a part of such a huge recovery.

"Even to be able to come later and see the work that has been done two years ago is very much a blessing…we watched the films, now we know we're doing good works out here…" said Harper. "It isn't about the money, it's about the people."

A memory that stood out for CARE director Jenny Hegland was how devastated and shocked she felt to see the damage done to the island after the typhoon.

Hegland feels she owes a lot to social media, which she credits with playing a big role in getting individuals and agencies involved in the recovery phase of the island and it also got her to be a part of the mission.

According to Hegland, despite being a part of many different projects, she is proudest with her involvement in the long-term recovery of Saipan.

"I have been involved in a lot of things in my life that I am proud of, but I have never been as proud of anything as I am the work that we have done here to help families…," she said.

Many other individuals shared that Soudelor brought the entire community together to help one another and that is the most important take away from the disaster.

Castro claims govt violated his due process rights

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Corrections director Gregory Frank Taitano Castro wants the case filed against him dismissed, saying the government violated his due process rights.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan L. Wilberscheid described Castro's motion to dismiss as a naked attack on court rules and the integrity of the judicial process.

» OAG says Castro's last-minute motion is naked attack on integrity of judicial process

Castro and the Office of the Attorney General offered their arguments in response to Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho's order for supplemental briefing on some legal issues.

Castro's bench trial commenced last July 10, but on that same day the government moved to amend one charge. The request was granted.

After the prosecution called its first witness and asked three questions, defense counsel Rene C. Holmes objected to the citation, stating that it did not provide adequate notice of the charges and thus violated Castro's right to due process. Holmes moved to dismiss the case and also asked the court to reconsider its ruling regarding amending the citation.

After hearing the motion for two days, Camacho ordered the parties to submit supplemental briefing and continued the trial to Aug. 8, 2017.

In Castro's supplemental briefing, Holmes said the court should dismiss the entire traffic citation for failure to comply with Castro's due process rights by failing to provide sufficient notice—no essential elements and no essential facts.

Holmes said Castro recognizes that a dismissal can be a harsh result of an error by the government.

"However, such errors and such results are teaching moments for the government," Holmes.

The defense counsel said violations of an individual's constitutional rights should not be tolerated, whether inadvertent or intentional.

Holmes said if the court gives the government a pass, it may not learn the lesson that the violation of the constitutional rights is improper.

Holmes said if, on the other hand, the court dismisses the case, the government is more likely to note the impropriety of its behavior and ensure future compliance with procedural due process.

In the government's opposition, Wilberscheid said the very purpose of the Traffic Rules and Criminal Rules is to prevent exactly the sort of behavior Castro engaged in.

Wilberscheid said should

See CASTRO on Page 4

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Healthy food program adjusts requirements

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To encourage more restaurants to participate, the program that encourages them to offer healthier items on their menu will adjust its food standards so that it will be easier to implement.

Instead of requiring restaurants to stick to a particular cooking procedure that is deemed healthy, the Racial Ethnic Approach to Community Health, or REACH, Biba program will just ask participants to make a simple pledge to offer healthier fare, said REACH project assistant Hee Jae Lee.

"The plan is to make it easier for restaurants to qualify under Biba standards," Lee said.

The program initially required restaurants to have a certain limit in calories, to use or have food with less saturated fat and lower sugar content, and to offer two servings of fruits and vegetables.

"Most restaurants find that to be too stringent and for the customers' part, it takes a lot of time for them to analyze the menu," said Lee.

REACH plans to implement the pledge system by October.

"It's a pledge from the restaurant that 'This establishment will be offering a healthy side dish upon request for some of the menu items' so the establishment can be a part of the BIBA program. We are making it very simple for the restaurants. Basically, as long as the restaurant is carrying out an offer for a healthy option to the customer, then they can be part of the program," Lee added.

The REACH Biba program was established three years ago and aims to promote healthy living through healthy eating in the Commonwealth. Its funding from Centers for Disease Control through the University of Hawaii is ending in September. However, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Non-Communicable Disease Bureau will adopt the restaurant program starting October.

"We are pushing this because we want to help people to have a healthy lifestyle. To date, 50 percent of adults on Saipan have been found to have hypertension and if untreated, this condition sends you to dialysis. Hypertension also comes from obesity. Two out three adults on Saipan are obese and 70 percent of population eat at least one serving of processed meat per day," Lee said

"We are consuming too much salt in our diet and 75 percent of adults on Saipan eat less than five servings of fruits and vegetables everyday. One serving is half a cup. That means people are only consuming half of half of the recommended serving. This results in not getting enough potassium in the body, which can shoot up blood pressure," Lee added.

The Biba program will continue to reach out to restaurants on island to give diners a healthy option even in a simple way, like offering fruits and vegetables as side dishes or substituting french fries with salad or fruits.

"Restaurants play an important part in helping control the obesity epidemic here on Saipan. If they are going to partner with us and serve healthier food to customers, the whole island can be healthier," Lee said.

Currently, there are four restaurants that have adopted the program: Caravan, Everest Kitchen, Shenanigans, and Shirley's Coffee Shop.

Hee Jae Lee, the local project assistant for the REACH Biba Program, said: "We hope more restaurants will join the BIBA program. They play a critical role in raising awareness in obesity, diabetes and hypertension on Saipan." BEA CABRERA

Sanpoen releases 300 lanterns into the sea

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Visiting Sanpoen members from Japan released into the waters off the Howood Junior High School a total of 300 handmade lanterns on Monday night to remember those who perished during World War II and to remember their ancestors who lost their lives on Saipan during the war.

According to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, who was present at Monday night's lantern ceremony, his office has been accommodating these pilgrims for 39 years because the history that the island shares with Japan runs deep.

The Sanpoen pilgrims have been journeying to Saipan for over 30 years now to conduct their prayer rituals and lantern ceremony.

According to Apatang, the ceremony includes prayers at Suicide Cliff prior to the lantern ceremony. This year, the prayers were led by Buddhist chief priest Kansho Kayaki.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who was present for the *sayonara* party before the lantern ceremony, thanked Sanpoen for their continued visits to the Commonwealth.

According to Torres, the relationship between Sanpoen and the Commonwealth has allowed 1,700 Japanese students to venture to Saipan and over 1,000 local students to travel to Japan.

Torres said that the Sanpoen pilgrimage has served as a gateway for more Japanese tourists to venture to Saipan because former Sanpoen participants continue to advertise the islands.

The Sanpoen pilgrims released 300 handmade lanterns out into the ocean, symbolizing peace. The lantern ceremony was held at the Hopwood beach last night. KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

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SALARY

From Page 1

minority leader Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan).

The House minority bloc is composed of Reps. Villagomez, Propst, Sablan, Blas "BJ" Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan), and Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

Both Villagomez and Propst questioned the legality of the pay hike.

Propst pointed out that lawmakers in the19th Legislature had a pecuniary interest when they approved to pass the law that paved the way for the pay hike since many of them knew that they were going back in the succeeding legislature, and therefore should have abstained from the vote.

Villagomez agreed with this and cited Propst's bill, House Bill 20-39, which proposes to remove the salary increases provided in Public Law 19-83. Villagomez cosponsored that bill.

The bill pointed out that the Advisory Commission on the Compensation for Elected Officials went beyond "the 60-day limit and failed to submit a report to the Legislature within the specified timeframe."

"Due to their inability to act in a timeframe required by law, the Legislature finds that the increase in salaries for elected officials should be considered null and void," stated the bill cited by Villagomez.

Sablan did not really delve too much on the legality of the salary hike. His concerns were more on the basis of the salary increase.

"I wanted [to know] if the work of the commission sufficed," he said, questioning the basis of the salary increases.

"They did their work and made some recommendations but the report that was used to so-called 'calculate' the consumer price index or so was late, so there were issues with that," said Sablan. He added that he was more focused on "how the raise was given" as opposed to the reasoning behind the raise.

"I voted no because I wasn't satisfied with the legal interpretation of the counsel," he added.

Ways and Means committee chair Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) said the salary hike is already a law, and the committee had a fiduciary duty to stand by and uphold the law.

"Without any litigation ordering otherwise, the Ways and Means Committee is bound to abide by the law and [PL 19-83] set those new salary scales," he said, adding that it wasn't necessarily his committee that recommended the increase but rather "the committee has a duty to follow the law—and that is the existing law."

Demapan also pointed out that both Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog's salary increases were not included in the budget proposal since Public Law 19-83 states that the increase would be implemented in the upcoming term, meaning the 2019 governor and lieutenant governor would get the increased salaries.

The 2019 governor and lieutenant governor would be compensated at $120,000 and $100,000 per annum respectively.

The budget bill indicates an increase of $30,700 for both House and Senate members while mayors of each senatorial district would get an increase of $31,800, effectively bumping legislators' salaries to $70,000 per annum and $75,000 per annum for mayors.

The budget bill is currently awaiting adoption by the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), before being acted upon by the Senate.

CASTRO

From Page 2

the court address the merits, then the result should be the same.

He said the citation provides specific reference points to the alleged violations in the Commonwealth Code, as well as the time and place of the allegations.

Because Castro has notice of the charges against him and can plan his defense accordingly, and because the citation provides sufficient facts to prevent future double jeopardy, the charging document is sufficient for constitutional purposes, Wilberscheid said.

"No more is required under U.S. or CNMI Supreme Court precedent," he added.

He added that the motion to reconsider, because it does not rest on a change in law or fact, or clear error or a manifest injustice, has not provided any basis for being granted.

The prosecutor said because Castro was not prejudicially misled, the amendment of the citation was proper, and helps clarify the issues.

The Office of the Public Auditor allegedly caught Castro using an unmarked DOC vehicle to go to the Marianas Country Club in Marpi in the morning of March 15, 2017, to play golf. The vehicle had civilian plate number and tinted windows. He allegedly played golf with his brother for three hours.

When Castro returned to his vehicle, he was issued a traffic citation for operating a government vehicle for a purpose other than official government business, operating a government vehicle with tinting on its windows, operating a government vehicle without government identification markings on the front doors, and operating a government vehicle without government license plate.

Castro, 58, pleaded not guilty.

IPI

From Page 1

cense fee amounting to $15 million each year, plus $20 million in contributions, called Community Benefit Fund, or CBF.

If IPI sticks with this $35 million annual obligation to the Commonwealth, the CNMI government is set to receive $175 million over the span of the extension to 2023.

The Lottery Commission further amended that the CBF, which amounts to an annual contribution of $20 million, is to be received in two tranches of $10 million each, to be paid no later than Jan. 1, 2018, and June 1, 2018. Subsequent CBF contributions are to be paid in full before Oct. 1 of each year.

According to a statement by the Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' administration, the Lottery Commission's decision was "in line with this administration's goal of sustainable development."

"By extending the deadline for the completion of Phases 1 and 2, it allows for the government to properly and efficiently build the necessary infrastructure to accommodate the new amenities and resources that will be available for both tourists and our community to use and enjoy," the statement said.

"From the very beginning of this new venture, our main goal is to properly balance the needs of a growing economy and our unique environmental resources."

The statement noted that the extended deadlines allow "IPI to properly go through the permitting process, so that there is more efficient enforcement and no cutting corners."

"At the end of the day, it is important that we ensure the success of IPI so that we can continue to grow our economy sustainably and foster a market where new small businesses can pop up and new industries can add to our community's economic successes," said the statement.

According to representatives of IPI, they have expressed their frustrations to the Commonwealth Casino Commission about labor problems hindering their progress.

According to the statement, past CBF contributions provided $10 million in the form of Commonwealth Utilities Corp. vouchers that helped keep rates low for ratepayers.

"In the Lottery Commission's process of amending the CLA, the CBF was an element where we took a firm stance. We are very pleased that we were able to secure a guarantee of the annual contributions of $20 million to the fund so that we can address our utility needs, provide for better health care services, more educational resources for the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, and our vocational institutions, and continue to pay our retirees their benefits," the statement said.

AIRPORT

From Page 1

monwealth Ports Authority Tinian board member Kimberly King-Hinds.

"The USAF presented a ballpark figure of which has been allocated for the project's implementation. Much of this is for the construction of the project, which includes an apron, a hangar, [and] a fuel storage tank for their purposes. They will also be constructing a fuel pipeline, which will run from the seaport to the airport. So in terms of economic impact, the windfall will primarily be felt by those who are in the construction business," she said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

King-Hinds, however, said the Air Force's activities on Tinian would hopefully trickle down to the small businesses.

"Indirectly, Tinian will benefit from the additional people who will be on Tinian during the construction phase and during the training exercise who will be eating at restaurants, renting cars, hotel rooms, etc. This translates to an increase in collection of hotel occupancy taxes and BGRT [business gross revenue tax]," King-Hinds said

But the increased military activity may also have a negative effect, she pointed out.

"Given the limited number of hotel rooms on Tinian, there could also be a negative impact on tourism as it would be hard to invite visitors to the island when the Department of Defense fully occupies all the existing hotel rooms and have taken up all the rental cars. These factors give the community pause when considering whether this type of activity will actually benefit the island," she added.

This is the first time that such a military project of this magnitude will be implemented in the CNMI particularly on Tinian.

King-Hinds said, "The Tinian leadership's support of this proposed action has been based on the premise that it will improve the infrastructure at the Tinian airport, which would allow Tinian to welcome direct international flights and include fuel storage facilities and navigational aides that would benefit airline activities. They also thought that it would provide jobs for the community."

She, however, said the Air Force has made it clear that the fuel storage facility is for military use only and navigational aides are also not included as this infrastructure is not included in their layout plan.

"The jobs that would come would be a result of the construction phase. These construction jobs are bid out to contractors who meet certain federal requirements for undertaking defense related contracts. Most of these contractors are from Guam who then subcontract local contractors on Tinian. There will be other jobs after construction such as maintenance of the pipelines, etc. but that too will have to trickle down from these contractors who in large part will be coming out of Guam, as we've seen with other defense-related jobs on Tinian," she added.

To date, CPA has not made a decision with regards to the PACAF Divert and Exercise Activities.

"CPA wanted to hear from the community of Tinian first, that is why we had the public hearing. CPA does not take this decision lightly. Ultimately, it is the people of Tinian who have to live with the impact of the proposed action. We plan to continuously engage with the governor and the people of Tinian through the Tinian leadership in deciding how to best move forward," said King-Hinds.

Last month's public hearing tackled issues such as what will be involved in the PACAF Divert and Exercise Activities and how it will affect the island and people of Tinian.

"The USAF presented their proposed plans about the Divert Training Exercises and Activities and their request for CPA's approval of an airport layout that would allow them to move forward with implementing the construction of certain facilities at the Tinian airport to support the training activities."

The Air Force plans to use the Tinian International Airport for military divert operations, humanitarian assistance staging, exercises, and other aircraft support activities. All operations will take place within a maximum of eight weeks per year of exercises at the Tinian International Airport.

Currently, there is no existing divert or contingency airfield on U.S. territory in the Western Pacific that is designed and designated to provide strategic operational and exercise capabilities for U.S. forces when needed and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in times of natural or man-made disasters.

CREW

From Page 1

Gersonde said 15 are part of 26 individuals who obtained their certificates after being trained in April on how to fight brush and wildland fires.

The training was conducted by DFEMS in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

The 15-man crew will be deployed to California for the next 30 to 40 days.

Last Wednesday, DFEMS was notified that Region 5 has exhausted its resources and is requesting for personnel from the Northern Marianas.

The U.S. Forest Service will cover all costs, including wages, associated with the deployment of the 15 crewmembers.

Torres said he is very proud of the crew and looks forward to them representing the CNMI in helping California extinguish forest fires.

"At the same time we're going to miss them, and we wish them good luck and we pray for their safety," Torres said.

The governor thanked the firefighters and the volunteers "for their bravery in assisting those in need."

"I thank their families for their patience and for all their sacrifices as we see our guys go out and fight the fires," he said.

The CNMI last sent 17 crewmembers to assist in fighting wildland fires in the U.S. mainland in 2014.

Prior to 2014, the CNMI also sent a firefighting crew not just to California but also to Idaho and Nevada.

Of the 15 crewmembers, one is from Rota and the rest are from Saipan, said DFEMS assistant fire chief Jesse Mesa.

Of the original 26 training participants, one is from Tinian but he moved to Texas.

"Stay alert and stay alive," Mesa advised the crew.

Mesa said the selection process prioritizes the civilian crew. DFEMS then fills the extra slots with firefighters because of the fact that they also have to protect the CNMI.

One member of the 15-man crew, Martin Pangelinan Jr., looks forward to the experience as he had fought forest fires for eight years in southern California.

"This time around, I'm going out with people of the CNMI and I am glad to be one of the leaders," said Pangelinan, who is on the civilian side.

Pangelinan said his main objective is to ensure everyone's safety while they are fighting fires and that they all return home to their families.

Pangelinan was part of the group that was sent to California to fight wildfires in 2008, just two months after graduating from high school.

"I did not know what I was getting myself into, but I was excited," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

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Man gets 32-day prison sentence for attacking niece's husband

The Office of the Attorney General has amended four times the case against a 65-year-old man accused of smacking the husband of his pregnant niece and trying to attack him with a tire wrench inside a poker arcade in Koblerville.

The original information charged Vicente Sablan Basa with five charges, which carry a maximum total sentence of 22 years imprisonment.

After four changes, Basa is now only charged with disturbing the peace and domestic violence, which carry a maximum total sentence of one year in prison.

Last Friday, Basa pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace as part of a plea deal. He was represented in the case by assistant public defender Jamal Saleh.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho slapped Basa with a 32-day prison term, with credit for 32 days of time served. That means he will no longer serve a prison term.

Camacho sentenced Basa to the maximum sentence of one-year imprisonment for the two offenses, all suspended except for the first 32 days.

The remainder of the sentence is suspended and may be imposed if Basa commits a crime.

Basa was placed on probation for one year and required to pay a $500 fine, $25 in court costs, and $120 in probation fee. The fines may be converted to community service.

Basa was ordered to complete 50 hours of community service, attend anger management counseling, submit to drug tests and drug counseling, and shall not possess or consume any alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs during his probation.

Basa is barred from having any contact with the victims and their children during his probation.

According to the plea deal, Basa made a threat that disturbed the peace of the victims on June 1, 2017 on Saipan.

The OAG filed the original information last June 7, charging Basa with assault and battery, disturbing the peace, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault with a dangerous weapon-domestic violence, and disturbing the peace-domestic violence.

The following day, June 8, the OAG amended the charges to assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

The following day, June 9, the OAG again amended the charges to assault and battery, disturbing the peace, assault with a dangerous weapon, attempted assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace-domestic violence.

Last July 27, the OAG amended the charges again to disturbing the peace and disturbing the peace-domestic violence.

The following day, July 28, OAG amended the charges a fourth time, this time to just two charges—disturbing the peace and disturbing the peace-domestic violence.

In sentencing Basa, Camacho noted that the defendant has two prior convictions.

The motive for the attack was not indicated in the police report. It was mentioned, though, that he was drunk.

According to police, an officer responded to a call last June 1 at 4:34pm about a disturbance at KB Poker in Koblerville.

Police said that prior the incident, the 35-year-old victim and his seven-month pregnant wife were playing poker inside KB Poker.

Basa then came and smacked the victim's left ear.

The victim's wife got in between to prevent the fight.

As Basa was allegedly about to swing a tier wrench, the victim threw a chair at him.

The victim and his wife ran outside, then called the police. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Leaders call for regional Ocean Science Center

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—Pacific Island countries and territories at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's 10th governing body conference in Noumea have called for the establishment of a Pacific Community Center for Ocean Science.

The center, to be hosted at SPC, will draw on the scientific and technical expertise across the organization's different work programs, including fisheries and geoscience, and look to complement ongoing regional efforts for the sustainable management of the Pacific region's oceanic resources.

The decision was made as SPC's 26 country and territory members deliberated on the strategic direction of SPC as the organization marked its 70th year of operations.

The more than 40 country and territory representatives—including several heads of state—as well as development partners contributed to the thematic discussion centered on the theme "Innovative Partnerships for Sustainable Development," with keynote addresses by the Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine; the European Union's high-level facilitator for outreach activities on the post-Cotonou agreement, Pascal Lamy; and the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Yukiya Amano.

In this regard, Pacific Island representatives congratulated SPC on its technical cooperation agreement with IAEA and encouraged further exploration of innovative partnerships to support sustainable development priorities and efforts in the Pacific Islands region.

They recognized SPC's achievements over the past 18 months and has encouraged the organization to continue of its path of prioritization with a focus on high impact areas consistent with its mandate and capabilities.

The Conference also re-appointed Dr. Colin Tukuitonga as SPC director-general for a further two-year term.

The 10th Conference of the Pacific Community concluded with a 70th anniversary celebration with its 26 member countries and territories and partners.

Cook Islands will host the 11th SPC Conference in 2019. ***(SPC)***

Torres: Saipan needs more hotel rooms

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that Saipan needs more rooms due to its booming tourism industry, adding that his administration welcomes investors who want to build more hotels.

When asked to comment about American Sinopan LLC's plan to build a 1,184-room hotel in Tanapag, Torres said the administration always welcomes investors.

When the time comes when the CNMI becomes saturated and does not need more hotel rooms, then the government should encourage other investments to come in, he added.

"At this point, we still do need more rooms for tourists," he said.

When asked about the labor force needed to build those rooms, the governor said those are issues that he is sure the investors will also look into.

The CNMI Zoning board recently granted with conditions American Sinopan LLC's application to renovate the former Magellan Hotel.

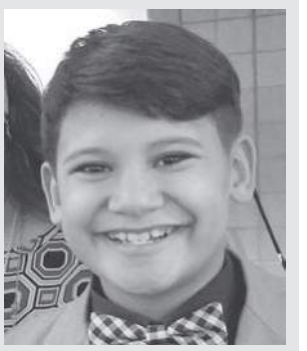
The company is also applying with the Zoning for a conditional use permit for a cluster hotel in Tanapag that will reportedly cost $144.3 million to build.

The Zoning board will hold a public hearing on American Sinopan's application at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Aug. 9 at 5pm.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 3rd birthday to our li'l typhoon princess, Mitchiko MyLia K. Laniyo. We hope you have a fabulous day and God bless you always, our baby! Much love from Daddy, Mommy, and KaiLin.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A very happy birthday to the sweetest teddy bear, our Jonathan. Love you lots, from your Wolf pack!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-038

Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to perform mitigation of the CUC power distribution system through the replacement of 374 wood poles to concrete poles in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project entails the replacement of 103 units of 35-foot and 271 units of 40-foot wood poles to concrete poles and the assembly of electrical hardware. The work site is to take place across CUC's power grid.

This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the CUC and FEMA.

*CUC requires the Project to be completed in **174 calendar days** from date of award of contract.*

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **August 15, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-038, Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 29, 2017** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 18, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Jr. Electrical Engineer – via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-OVR-177

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 18, 2017 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"PROVISION OF FIVE (5) CORE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICE A PROJECT UNDER THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMNET OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-SUBMISSION ORIENTATION WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION, NAVY HILL, SAIPAN ON **AUGUST 04, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME.** PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE ORIENTATION.

ALL QUESTIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY MS. ARLENE KAY A. YAMAGATA, M.S., CRC OVER DIRECTOR BY PHONE AT (670) 322-6537/38 OR THROUGH E-MAIL AT nmidir@ovrgov.net NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **AUGUST 09, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMNET REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARLENE KAY A. YAMAGATA, MS.S. CRC
OVR DIRECTOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive
Whispering Palms
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsmile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner/Claimant Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

BERLINDA C. FLAWAU-QUITANO, Decedent.

Civil Action No. 17-0162

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION; NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Date: August 17, 2017
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE BERLINDA C. FLAWAU-QUITANO OR OF HER ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Bank of Guam of Saipan, CNMI ("Petitioner"), has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Letter of Administration of the **Estate of Berlinda C. Flawau-Quitano, Decedent. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Esq., whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by **Bank of Guam**, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on August 17, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to ROBERT TENORIO TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.

Dated this July 18, day of July, 2017.

/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

Fed court dismisses widower's lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing lack of jurisdiction, the federal court has dismissed the lawsuit filed by a Bangladeshi widower who had sued to stop his removal from the CNMI.

Obaydul Hoque Bhuiyan, whose U.S. citizen wife died in July 2006, filed the case in 2014.

In granting the U.S. government's motion to dismiss the case, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said that Bhuiyan fails to point to a finding of unlawful presence that the court can review.

Bhuiyan has already left the CNMI. He returned to Bangladesh on Nov. 3, 2015, while still holding a humanitarian parole status.

Manglona determined that the issue of accrual of unlawful presence did not trigger until Bhuiyan left the CNMI.

The U.S. government makes further arguments in favor of dismissal of the case due to Bhuiyan being ineligible for the immigration benefit he sought.

In rejecting such arguments as inapplicable to Bhuiyan's complaint, Manglona noted that Bhuiyan clarifies that he does not dispute U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services revoking his petition.

Bhuiyan commenced his lawsuit in June 2014. He then amended his complaint on June 27, 2016.

Bhuiyan sought damages, a declaration that his presence in the CNMI was lawful from Nov. 28, 2009, through Nov. 3, 2015. He also wanted the U.S. government barred from asserting that he had accrued unlawful presence during that period.

According to court records, USCIS reopened Bhuiyan's previously revoked I-360 visa application, and the pending removal proceeding was terminated without prejudice. Without prejudice means the USCIS may re-open the removal proceedings in the future.

In November 2014, USCIS also reopened Bhuiyan's Form I-485 petition or application to adjust status. Form I-485 is required as the final step for an alien in the U.S. to adjust status to that of lawful permanent resident.

Bhuiyan appealed the revocation of his Form I-360 to the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Form I-360 Form refers to a petition for Amerasian, widower or special immigration application.

On Nov. 3, 2015, Bhuiyan departed the CNMI to return to Bangladesh.

Following his departure, the Board of Immigration Appeals dismissed his appeal of the Department of Homeland Security director's decision revoking the previously approved Form I-360 visa petition as meritless.

Bhuiyan has been reportedly residing in the CNMI for over 19 years. His U.S. citizen wife died less than three years after their marriage.

Bhuiyan first came to the CNMI from Bangladesh in 1996. On March 5, 2004, he married Ana Atalig, also known as Ana Atalig Torres, a U.S. citizen. After his marriage, Bhuiyan applied for and was issued an immediate relative permit by the CNMI government.

In July 2006, about two years and three months after her marriage to Bhuiyan, Atalig died.

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Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 48832
Color: Magnetic Gray
$18,995

2014 Ford Escape SE
Stk#EUB03527
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.6 Liter Ecoboost
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 12449
Color: Magnetic Gray
$19,995

2014 Nissan Frontier SV
Stk# EN765588
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 38812
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Engine: 3.5 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
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Transmission: Automatic
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Stk# FN700457
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 24250
Color: Brilliant Silver
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Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 23361
Color: Arctic Blue
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Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
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‘Improved boating access reinforces resources’

The improved boating access at the Garapan Fishing Base—with the completion of its boat ramp and parking—contributes to strengthening fisheries and managing precious resources, according to Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente.

“The Garapan Fishing Base is an important community resource for recreational boaters and fishermen. Improving our boating infrastructure has always been a priority to ensure safety, cleanliness and ease of access,” Benavente said.

Project manager Vicente Camacho for the Boating Access Program said that funding from the Sport Fish Restoration focuses on improving access to complement trade and food sourcing.

Boating access at the Garapan Fishing Base is now improved with the completion of its boat ramp and parking. KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

“The fishing base project came about through the CNMI Marine Conservation Plan. We emphasized that in order to maintain healthy marine fisheries and the management of our bases, providing a dedicated area to our boaters would go a long way in our conservation efforts both in and out of the base or any marina,” Camacho said.

Expressing the need for continued improvements, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres added that boating access for the community is not only economically important but culturally ingrained.

“Recreation fishing and boating provide sustenance to a large part of our community and cooperative management has allowed us to improve conservation strategies. In conserving our essential fish habitats and safeguarding our boaters, this way of life can continue on to future generations,” Torres said.

Camacho noted that the boating access program extends to the renovation of the Rota West harbor marina, which is being completed in phases.

“The replacement of the Floating Dock System will be divided into three phases, which began in [fiscal year] 2016 until [fiscal year] 2018. In the previous year, maintenance dredging at Sugar Dock was completed with approximately 2,300 cubic yard of sand relocated. These maintenance services are performed on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and play a huge role in boating accessibility,” he said. ***(PR)***

DFW completes work to update NMI’s Wildlife Action Plan

Revised just two years ago, the Division of Fish & Wildlife Action Plan discusses climate change impacts to our wildlife, lands, and waters that were not considered in the last decade.

Jill Liske-Clark, who developed the WAP for the CNMI for years 2015 to 2025, noted that in December 2015, DFW completed the nearly two-year project to revise and update the CNMI Wildlife Action Plan, which was last completed in 2005.

“Given the range and magnitude of the impacts that climate change will bring in coming decades, we need to explicitly evaluate and articulate the expected impacts on populations and habitats,” she said.

Climate change factors within the plan notes that while the average global temperature has increased, other effects on climate are more variable, since the changes have a global impact, with many effects known or currently anticipated.

“For example, we anticipate that marine and terrestrial food webs will be altered in coming decades, and the threat of altered prey or forage availability will be an effect of climate change…At this time, we cannot predict how the forest will change, and which Species of Greatest Conservation Need or SGCN may benefit or be harmed,” Liske-Clark said.

According to Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente, although the WAP does not include a comprehensive list of all effects of climate change, or even all effects expected to impact our SGCN, adaptation and mitigation is needed.

“What we can see is that the most important climate change effects that will impact our SGCN will occur or intensify in the coming decades and that current data suggests that our marine SGCN are at greater risk from the effects of climate change such as ocean acidification or increased typhoon activity,” Benavente said.

One of these effects, according to the WAP, is ocean acidification, which negatively affects the growth and reproduction of corals and other marine life.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who led the Climate Adaptation Directive to establish a Climate Change Resilience Working Group, said that the effects of ocean acidification on reef building corals could result in major alterations of entire reef ecosystems.

“The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s most recent study of our archipelago shows coral bleaching happening in areas that lack human activity. Although we cannot predict the rate of species impacts, we can predict that climate change will deeply affect our surrounding waters and marine life,” Torres said.

The WAP further describes sea level rise and the costly effects on coastal human communities as well as altered precipitation patterns.

Sea level rise could be expected to impact shorelines, causing erosion in some and accretion in others.

“Beaches, possibly including those in the CNMI that are particularly important to tourism and sea turtle nesting, could be significantly impacted. Mangroves, an extremely limited habitat in the CNMI found only on Saipan, may be eroded, inundated by seawater, and/or converted to other habitat types, threatening the persistence of the SGCN mangrove crab,” Liske-Clark said.

With climate change resiliency as one of many factors in conservation efforts, the WAP lays out a 10-year strategy for proactive conservation and management of the CNMI’s fish and wildlife resources.

For more information on the Division of Fish and Wildlife Action Plan, log onto gov.mp/2017/07/31/cnmi-wildlife-action-plan/. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH
ZONING BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

L.T. Travel Company, Ltd.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. L.T. Travel Company, Ltd. is proposing to occupy an existing two-storey building consisting of 6 units for Guest House. This use is classified as “Guest House/Motel” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. E.A. 226-2-1-1 & 123 E 01 in Sadog Tasi. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: Wednesday, August 09, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, August 08, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

COMMONWEALTH
ZONING BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

American Sinopan, LLC dba Saipan Garden Resort

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. American Sinopan, LLC dba Saipan Garden Resort is proposing to construct and operate ten 6-story hotel buildings with two hotel dining buildings with a total of 1,184 hotel units, a main lobby and administrative building, two 6-story apartment buildings with one club house facility, two 6-story staff housing buildings with a cafeteria, and two restaurant buildings. This use is classified as “Planned Development/Hotel” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lots No. 018 B 174, 018 B 102, & 018 B 103 in Tanapag. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: Wednesday, August 09, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, August 08, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

COMMONWEALTH
ZONING BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

Hon Yan International (CNMI) LLC, dba Ladder Beach Restaurant

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Hon Yan International (CNMI) LLC dba Ladder Beach Restaurant is proposing to construct a building structure to operate a restaurant. This use is classified as “Restaurant, General” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 039 L 17 in Obyan. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: Wednesday, August 09, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, August 08, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Saipan chamber meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its August general membership meeting today, Aug. 2, at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club. The speakers are Bobby Shringi, board chairman of the Guam Chamber of Commerce, and Chris Concepcion, managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Shringi will speak about some of the Guam chamber's activities and missions, about the Guam business climate, and about ways Saipan and Guam can benefit from each other. Concepcion will update Chamber member on the efforts and activities of the MVA.

The buffet luncheon begins at 11:30am with the meeting portion of the agenda starting promptly at noon. ***(PR)***

Family grief support group meeting tomorrow

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting tomorrow, Thursday, Aug. 3, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai. The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(PR)***

Military training at FDM, Guam waters

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla until Aug. 4, from 10am to 10pm.

The military will also conduct training in waters around Guam within a five-mile nautical radius of the following coordinates 13° 28" 60'N/144° 25"00'E, during the dates and times indicated:

■ Aug. 2-3, from 6:30am to 6pm

■ Aug. 4-5, from midnight to 11:59pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. ***(PR)***

US Navy releases new input dates

The U.S. Navy will accept public comments about the Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact statement for the Mariana Island Training and Testing area until Sept. 15, 2017. Comments must be postmarked or received online by Sept. 15, 2017, for consideration in the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted online at www.MITT-EIS.com or mail to: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific Attention: MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager, 258 Makapala Drive, Suite 100 Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134. ***(PR)***

Free Veterans Choice workshops next week

The office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is hosting next week a series of Veterans Choice workshops that are open to veterans, their families, and members of the public who would like to learn more about veterans' options for healthcare through the Veterans Administration's Choice program.

The workshops are scheduled as follows:

■ Rota: Aug. 8, 2017, from 9:30am to 11:30am, NMC instructional site, Room A-1

■ Tinian: Aug. 9, 2017, from 9:30am to 11:30am, Tinian Public Library

■ Saipan: Aug. 10, 2017, from 5pm to 7pm, Pedro T. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Representatives of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and TriWest (the VA's third-party administrator for the Choice program) will be present to share information and answer questions. ***(PR)***

NMC registration for fall semester ongoing

Registration at the Northern Marianas College for the fall 2017 semester is ongoing until Aug. 18, 2017. Late registration/advising period: Aug. 14 -18, 2017

Placement tests: July 31 to Aug. 3 and Aug. 7 to Aug. 10; to schedule your placement test, call 237-6774 or email date/time preference to isabel.matsunaga@marianas.edu. Proceed to the Office of Admissions & Records (Building N) to obtain a placement test form. Make payment ($25 per test) at the NMC Cashier Window (Building N).

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming fall 2017 semester or to apply for admission, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

SSHS new student orientation set

Saipan Southern High School will have a new student orientation for Monday, Aug. 7, 2017, at 10am and 2pm at the school cafeteria. Parents of new students attending Saipan Southern High School can attend either session (10am or 2pm). ***(PR)***

VA benefits outreach on Saipan

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration will be visiting Saipan on Aug. 31, 2017, and will be conducting a benefits workshop/claims clinic and outreach at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The workshop/claims clinic will be from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Veterans will also be meeting one-on-one with the benefit counselor from 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

Workshop topics include VA benefits, loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation & employment, death benefits & education benefits. Counselors will be available to answer questions and assist with the claim process. ***(PR)***

OES information out

Oleai Elementary School PTSA is inviting all students, parents, guardians, family and the community to the school on Aug. 5, 2017, from 8am to 11:30am to beautify the school campus.

OES would also like to invite all incoming and continuing students with their parents and guardians for orientation and Open House.

• Orientation will take place in the school cafeteria for all grade levels (Kindergarten to 5th grade) on Aug. 10 and Aug. 11, 2017, from 5pm to 6pm. Parents and guardians can choose to come on either night.

• Open House will take place on the following dates for the following grade levels, as follows:

■ Kindergarten to 2nd grade: Aug. 17, 2017, from 5pm to 6pm

■ 3rd grade to 5th grade: Aug. 18, 2017, from 5pm to 6pm ***(PR)***

BECQ sets Laulau Beach cleanup

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Laulau Beach on Saturday, Aug. 5, 2017, at 8 am.

To volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Laulau Beach entrance at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(BECQ)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/SWMD17-RFP-001

PROCUREMENT OF SERVICE FOR REMOVAL, PACKAGING, CONTAINMENT, AND SHIPPING OF HAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIALS COLLECTED AT THE LOWER BASE TRANSFER STATION

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals to Provide Procurement Services for removal, packaging, containment, and shipping of household hazardous waste materials collected at the Lower Base Transfer Station (LBTS), Saipan , Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CN1VII Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001 Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-210** of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Scope of Work is available on or after **July 19, 2017** at the Solid Waste Management Division office, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan, MP 96950.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division office, Lower Base Transfer Station on **August 09, 2017**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Enrique Dela Cruz, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:00 p.m. local time **August 14, 2017**.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with **§70-30.3-210** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Operation Plan – 40%
2. Past Experience on Similar Projects – 40%
3. Professional Qualifications – 10%
4. Financial Proposal – 10%

Cost is a factor that will be considered and will be evaluated in comparison with overall merit of proposals. Technical merit is more important than price, and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest priced proposer. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase. Please include a project budget with your response.

Discussions may be conducted with the responsible firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being awarded for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements, Firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be p-ermitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing firms.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract. The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245 and must possess a valid CNMI Business License in order to sign a contract.

Award shall be made to the responsible firm whose proposal is determined in writing to the most Advantageous to the CNI vll government taking into consideration price and evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

Sealed proposals must be marked **"DPW/SWMD17-RFP-001"**. For Proposers within the CNIAI, one original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m.. local time, **August 28, 2017** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNIVII may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 am, local time, **August 28, 2017**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the US. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 28, 2017** AND must be received no later than **September 06, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ ANTHONY S. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAB
Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH
ZONING BOARD

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, August 09, 2017
5:00 PM, Multipurpose Center, Susupe
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 7/20/2017 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:
1. **Conditional Use Application #2017-2499:** Hon Yan International (CNMI) LLC dba Ladder Beach Restaurant is proposing to construct a building structure to operate a restaurant. This use is classified as "Restaurant, General" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 039 L 17 in Obyan. This area is zoned as Rural.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2017-2639:** L.T. Travel Company, Ltd. is proposing to occupy an existing two-story building consisting of 6 units for Guest House. This use is classified as "Guest House/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. E.A. 226-2-1-1 & 123 E 01 in Sadog Tasi. This area is zoned as Rural.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2017-3109:** American Sinopan, LLC dba Saipan Garden Resort is proposing to construct and operate ten 6-story hotel buildings with two hotel dining buildings with a total of 1,184 hotel units, a main lobby and administrative building, two 6-story apartment buildings with one club house facility, two 6-story staff housing buildings with a cafeteria, and two restaurant buildings. This use is classified as "Planned Development/Hotel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lots No. 018 B 174, 018 B 102, & 018 B 103 in Tanapag. This area is zoned as Rural.

C. Communication

D. Old Business

E. New Business
1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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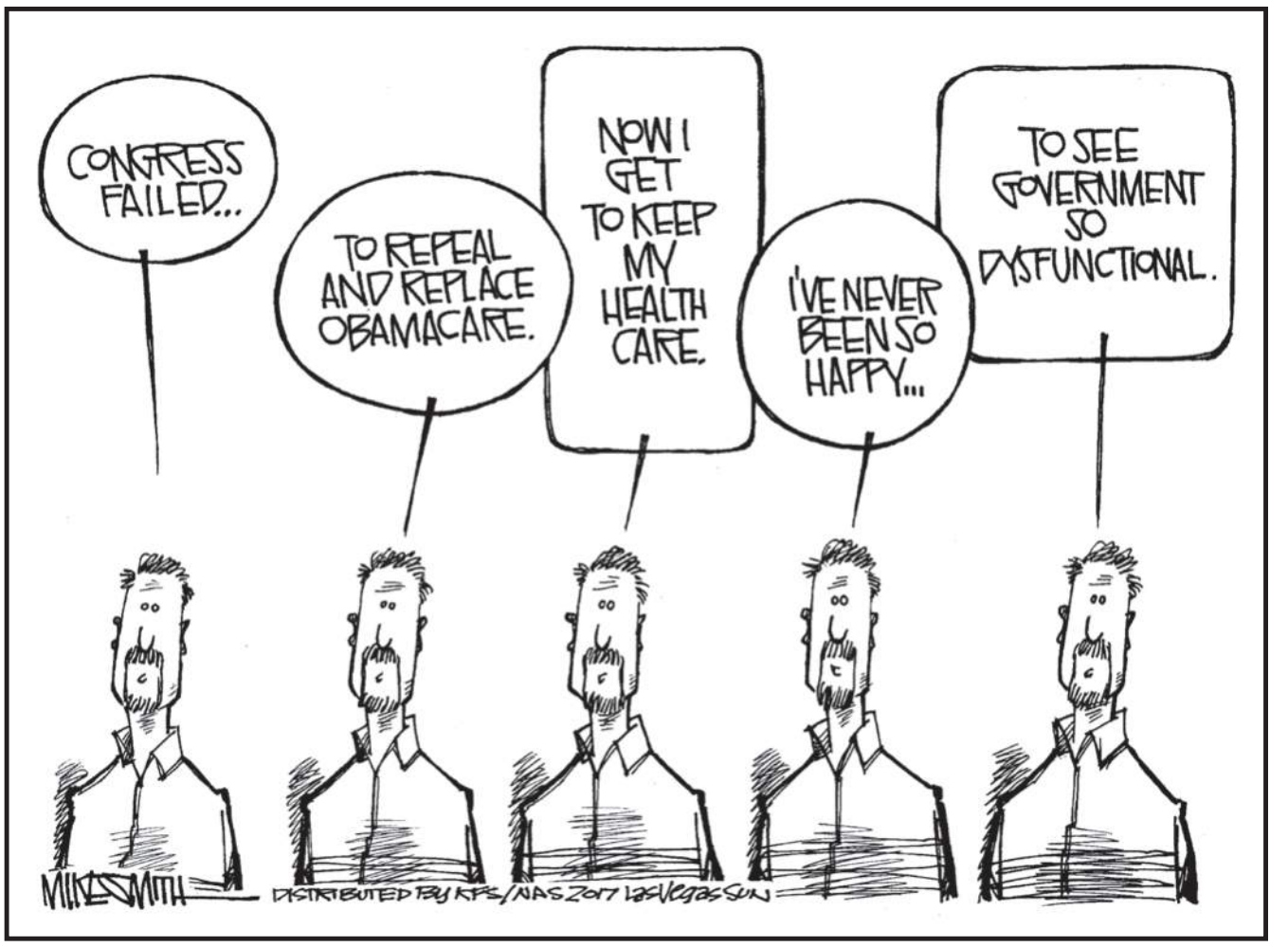
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association


CONGRESS FAILED...
TO REPEAL AND REPLACE OBAMACARE.
NOW I GET TO KEEP MY HEALTH CARE.
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HAPPY...
TO SEE GOVERNMENT SO DYSFUNCTIONAL.
MIKE SMITH
DISTRIBUTED BY KFS/NAS 2017 LAS VEGAS SUN

EDITORIAL

Trump, North Korea and China's choice

North Korea recently launched a missile that appears to be capable of hitting targets in the U.S. mainland. Pyongyang says that Washington should regard the launch as a "grave warning."

No argument there.

This sobering development comes years earlier than many experts had predicted. The upshot: The U.S. policy of "strategic patience"—waiting for North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un to come to his senses and the bargaining table—is officially over.

President Donald Trump needs a far more muscular policy than his predecessor's, pronto. What will that be?

So far, there's been talk of shooting down North Korean test missiles as a warning. But that could provoke Pyongyang to rain massive conventional retaliation on Seoul. Bad sequence.

There's been smarter talk of amping up the U.S. cyber campaign to send the North Korean missile program into a tailspin, much as the U.S. did against Iran's nascent nuclear program. But we hope that effort is already happening.

And the U.S. also is moving to impose economic sanctions against Chinese banks and businesses for trading with North Korea. Let's hope there is much more of that to come.

What hasn't worked yet: haranguing China, Pyongyang's major trading partner and ally, to do more to rein in the outlaw Kim regime. As President Trump rightly tweeted about China, "they do NOTHING for us with North Korea, just talk."

Cut to America's recent display of military prowess: Two supersonic B-1 bombers streaked over the Korean peninsula as part of a joint exercise with Japan and South Korea. U.S. forces also demonstrated the effectiveness of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system (THAAD), which detected, tracked and intercepted a medium-range ballistic missile launched from Alaska.

All this posturing is directed not only at Kim Jong Un, but also the leaders of China and their "What, us worry?" attitude.

The last thing China wants is U.S. supersonic bombers roaring close to its borders.

The last thing China wants is a potent demonstration of how the U.S. can knock down missiles before they reach the American mainland.

The last thing China wants is Japan and South Korea seriously mulling whether they should go nuclear to defend themselves. Both countries are believed to be capable of jump-starting a nuclear program on short notice. At the moment, however, both countries rely on U.S. nuclear deterrence for their security. The big question: Can North Korea be deterred, just as the Soviet Union and China were? In other words, do the North Koreans believe that the U.S. will retaliate, possibly with nukes, if North Korea attacks Japan or Seoul? The greater the doubt, the greater the risk that North Korea will make a first strike.

All of this is unsettling and happening in China's neighborhood. And as any businessman will tell you, rising tensions and threats of war aren't good for business.

China has a choice. It can help defuse the situation by choking off its energy trade with North Korea. It can make Kim Jong Un and his elites go without their favorite cognac and fancy cars. China can yank hard on the North's economic lifeline and help inform average North Korean citi-

See TRUMP on Next Page

Disgusting Scaramucci does not represent Italian people

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

When I was younger, I asked my mother if I could add a vowel to the end of my name. "Why," she said, not particularly surprised that her quirky eldest child would make a bizarre statement like that. "Because," I answered, "I want people to know that I'm Italian and with a name like Flowers they won't."

The former Lucy Fusco just looked at me and shook her head, which was Italian for "If God made us perfect, we'd have nothing to pray for." I suppose it's also why she named me after the patron saint of the mentally diseased. Really, look it up.

I tell you this because I want you to know how proud I am of my heritage. While only 50 percent of my DNA is from the *bel paese*, I feel completely Italian, despite the freckled white skin which refuses to tan, the inability to cook anything that doesn't come with reheating instructions and an aversion to homemade wine. These are all part of the stereotype of the *paisano*, along with the certainty that somewhere along the genealogical trail I would have tripped over piano wire.

You see what I did there? I made what some would consider an ethnic slur, and what others (the kind of Italians I grew up with) would notice as self-deprecating humor. I was surrounded by relatives who probably knew Mafiosi, and might even have invited them to social events, but who looked at that part of the heritage as an *infamia*, a disgrace, albeit one that you could joke about.

All of this to place what I am about to say next in context: I love my origins. I may not be able to cook, but I know that God created every other cuisine just so that people would realize you can't beat pasta Amatriciana and a Caprese salad. I will never be mistaken for a Mediterranean beauty, but I can explain to you why Sophia Loren and Gina Lollobrigida had a rivalry. I have a mediocre voice, but I actually know what Violetta is saying while singing her tubercular lungs out in "La Traviata."

That's why I'm disgusted with Anthony Scaramucci, Donald Trump's newest hire. As I said on my Facebook page, a communications director who uses four-letter words like a street fighter is good if your boss is the capo of the Genovese family. It is not so good if you work for the president of the United States.

And let me be clear. This has absolutely nothing to do with politics. I would say the same thing if Tony the Mooch worked for Hillary Clinton (and he did: John Podesta.) I would say the same thing if he worked for Barack Obama, and in fact, number 44 also had a rank embarrassment in his cabinet. Rahm Emanuel was one of the most profane, obscene and arrogant people to ever inhabit the White House, and I don't remember the media being particularly hard on him for his rough edges.

But two wrongs do not make a right, as Connie Corleone could tell you (if you need a refresher, check out the baptismal scene of "The Godfather.")

Scaramucci has been an obnoxious party crasher from the beginning, using his stiletto-sharp elbows to barge into D.C.'s inner sanctum. Some people think that's dandy, and liken him to Trump's Mini-Me. They share a lot in common in their origin stories, their New York brashness, their absolute inability to feel shame.

They are not gentlemen.

And yet, I think it was a big mistake for the president to bring this viper into his political family, because he is very clearly interested in making a name for himself at the expense of the cohesiveness and reputation of the White House. Granted, this White House has a very big image problem, one that is not helped by the media's obvious hostility toward Trump. I swear we're one step away from CNN posting "Breaking News: Trump Breaks Wind on Front Lawn."

But as I said before, two wrongs don't make a right, and Scaramucci is very, very wrong.

He embodies the worst stereotypes of the loud, slick, con man who is as adept with guns as he is with cannoli, a pompous pompadour infected with "Saturday Night Fever," a guy who thinks that you can intimidate with four-letter words. Here is what he said, on the record, to a reporter: "I want to f—ing kill all the leakers and I want to get the president's agenda on track so we can succeed for the American people."

Italians are not the only ones who use the f-word, not by a long shot. But that kind of Trumpfellas arrogance is disgusting.

Some might wonder why Scaramucci's ethnicity is at all relevant. If he were black or Jewish you say, I wouldn't dare write this column.

True, but then it wouldn't be my column to write. This one is.

I descend from Michelangelo, Leonardo, Marconi, Vespucci, Verdi, Manzoni and the Medicis. My people are war heroes like John Basilone, sat on the Supreme Court, like Scalia, and revived dying industries, like Iacocca.

That future caricature on "SNL" doesn't represent any of us.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Editor's Note: The indigenous language column of John S. DelRosario, which usually moves every Wednesday, won't move today. DelRosario plans to resume his columns in September 2017.

Resolve concerns before military changes transgender policy

By THOMAS W. SPOEHR
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

President Donald Trump has reversed yet another policy decision of the Obama administration. On Wednesday, he announced that the U.S. military will no longer "accept or allow" transgender people in its ranks.

Last year, then-Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter announced that transgender individuals serving in the military would no longer be forced to leave. Moreover, Carter said, openly transgender individuals would be allowed to join the military, starting this July 1.

Carter's announcement got widespread news coverage. But neither Carter nor President Barack Obama ever articulated how the new policy would affect military readiness. And that is the most important factor by which we should evaluate changes to existing military personnel policy.

So what is the state of U.S. military readiness today? Most experts agree with the Heritage Foundation's assessment that our military is under extreme stress, "beset by aging equipment, shrinking numbers, and rising costs." In response to growing threats from virtually all corners of the world, the Pentagon has deployed forces in more than 180 countries.

PRO

The pace of deployments has increased as well. In many cases, troops completing a nine-month deployment get only nine months back at home to recover and train before being deployed yet again. This puts tremendous strains on marriages, relationships and overall mental health.

From 2001-2003, when I commanded a brigade with responsibilities for basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, I saw a constant flow of individuals who failed to meet the medical requirements for military service. At the time, the most common reason for failure was asthma. Sometimes it was a pre-existing condition that had been missed during the initial physical. Sometimes the asthma developed only after the person engaged—for the first time in his or her life—in hard physical exertion.

All of these young Americans desperately wanted to serve their country. But the requirements were crystal clear: If soldiers were going to need continuing medical attention to treat their condition or if there was a question about whether they would be able to serve in the harshest of battlefield conditions, they were not allowed to join. Even an individual with sleep apnea, who needed only a device that required access to electrical power, was ineligible.

What about people who wanted to enlist but had a prior injury or condition, like a torn tendon in a shoulder, that required surgery? They weren't eligible to serve until the condition had been resolved.

Often those being rejected or dismissed would ask, "Isn't there a desk job where I can serve in the rear echelon?" While I respected their desire to serve, that's not the way the U.S. military operates, nor can it. Every individual in uniform must be able to deploy, fight and win in austere conditions, without any reliance on a daily flow of medications, medical treatment or special provisions.

It's an unforgiving standard but a necessary one if U.S. forces are going to prevail on distant battlefields.

Which brings us to the president's decision regarding transgender individuals and the military. Certainly, their desire to serve is laudable. But desire to serve does not, of itself, answer the fundamental question of whether a transgender individual's service helps or harms military readiness.

These individuals would need medical treatments—hormone therapies and often surgeries and the accompanying recovery times—throughout the duration of their service. On this basis alone, under existing rules applicable to all, they would not be allowed to join.

But putting that aspect aside, there is another readiness-related question that must be asked: Are transgender individuals as mentally resilient and as able to withstand the extreme stresses of the harsh crucible of combat as non-transgender individuals?

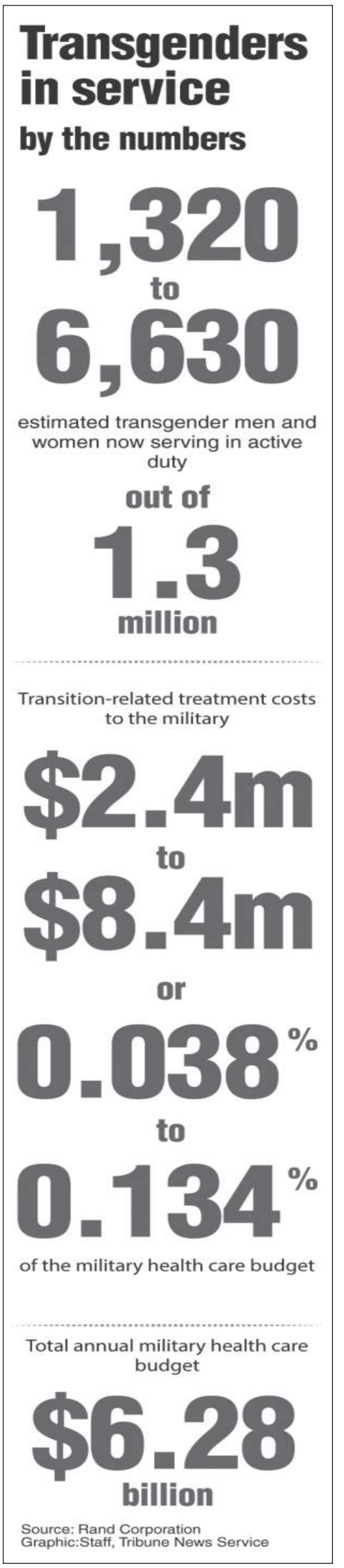
Some studies report that transgender individuals attempt suicide and experience psychological distress at rates many times the U.S. national average. To be clear, this is self-reported data, not data gleaned from rigorously controlled, clinical tests. But at this time, these survey results are the best available data. It would be both irresponsible and immoral to place such individuals in a position where they are exposed to the additional extraordinary stresses and pressures of the battlefield.

So, it seems caution is prudent. Prior to the president's recent announcement, Defense Secretary James Mattis had delayed implementation of the Obama administration's policy for six months.

The vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force Gen. Paul Selva, provided more insight on that decision, saying "Our decision to delay the accessions ... was largely based on a disagreement on the science of how mental-health care and hormone therapy for transgender individuals would help solve the medical issues that are associated with gender dysphoria."

These concerns should be fully resolved before our country goes forward with any change in long-standing policy. The stakes are too high to experiment with our national defense or to inadvertently cause harm to those wishing to serve.

A retired lieutenant general of the U.S. Army, Thomas W. Spoehr is director of the Heritage Foundation's Center for National Security (www.heritage.org). He wrote this for The Philadelphia Inquirer.



Trump's transgender military ban is mean-spirited, bigoted and a travesty

By RACHEL LEVINE
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

President Donald Trump tweeted that he is denying transgender Americans the opportunity to serve in the military because of who they are. This is simply absurd. Transgender Americans are citizens of this country and have the right to pursue any career-path they want. Setting aside that fact is damaging to our nation. And using the excuse that cost of care is the reason for this discrimination is worse than damaging. It's mean-spirited and bigoted.

Absolutely no one benefits from marginalizing people who want to protect our country. Transgender people are just that: people. Some are bakers; some are teachers; some are soldiers. I am a doctor.

The tragedy of this policy is the direct impact it will have on young people who already face the challenges of stigma in their everyday lives. This is our president saying to young people struggling to find themselves that they are not accepted, respected or needed. Transgender Americans are vulnerable to discrimination, harassment and violence. Repealing protections agreed to by our military and society will have tragic consequences. Denying those who wish to serve the opportunity to better themselves, their families and their communities will negatively affect all of us.

CON

The Department of Defense and U.S. military leadership have already invested in changes to include transgender Americans to openly serve our country. It is a travesty at this late date for the president to suddenly reverse course and further stigmatize an already vulnerable population.

For those who feel left behind or confused right now, know that you do not fight alone. We will not stop our battle against inequality until everyone has the same opportunities to work and live without fear.

TRUMP

From Page 10

zens that they could live far better lives without the Kim regime and its brand of leader-take-all communism. Just look south.

Beijing, the choice is yours. Every North Korean missile launch brings confrontation closer.

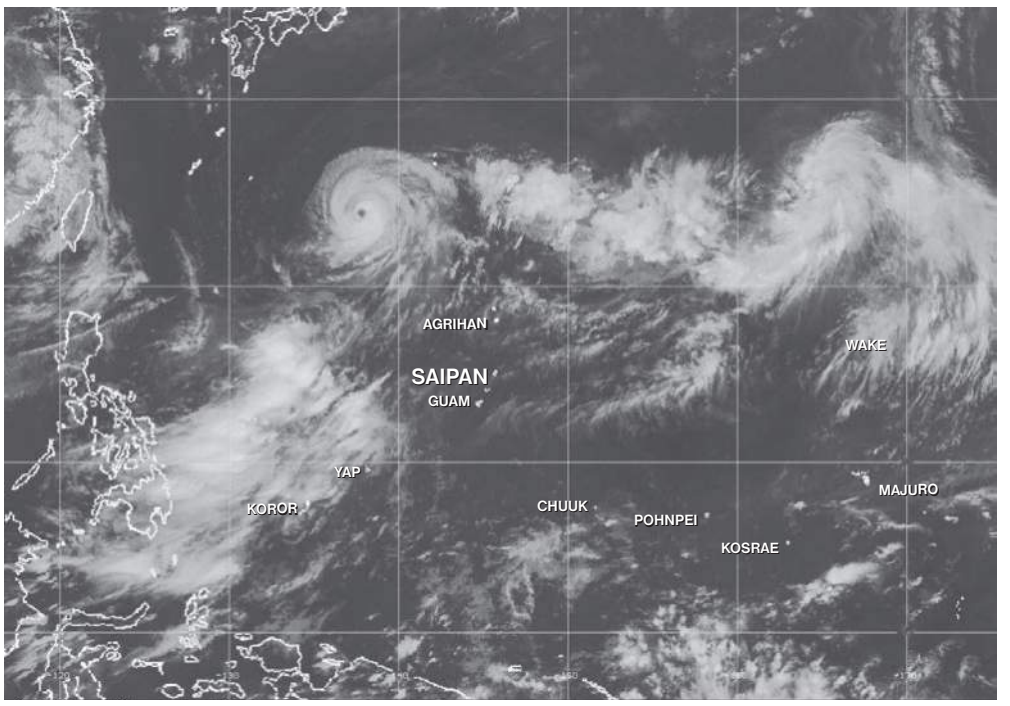
(c)2017 *Chicago Tribune*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:13 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No changes were needed, as the models still indicate mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms through at least Friday. GFS and ECMWF hint at brief periods of scattered showers tonight, but both models have given near-term false positives lately, so will wait and see.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Showers	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Showers	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 46°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	91° / 75°
Hong Kong	Showers	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 75°
London	Rain	64° / 63°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	90° / 73°
Manila	Rain	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	52° / 41°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 83°
New York	Mostly Sunny	88° / 72°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	93° / 75°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	102° / 75°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 70°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	67° / 58°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	93° / 75°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	81° / 68°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	89° / 72°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:39 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.73
10:13 AM	LOW TIDE	0.23
5:16 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.46
10:00 PM	LOW TIDE	1.13

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:20 AM	2:20 PM
Thursday	-	2:03 AM	3:09 PM
Friday	-	2:49 AM	3:58 PM
Saturday	-	3:36 AM	4:47 PM
Sunday	-	4:25 AM	5:34 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
ZE584	4:00pm	8:05pm	1, 3, 5
ZE584	4:35pm	8:15pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

ZE583	9:10am	2:40pm	1, 3, 5
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
ZE583	10:05am	3:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

AP ANALYSIS: Most automakers slow to fix dangerous air bags

By TOM KRISHER
AP AUTO WRITER

AP
In this Tuesday, June 23, 2015, file photo, Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., holds a Takata airbag inflator during a Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

DETROIT (AP)—A government effort to speed up recalls of more than 21 million of the most dangerous Takata air bag inflators is falling short, according to an analysis of completion rates by The Associated Press.

Nearly 10 million inflators with the highest risk of rupturing remained in use as of March 31, the latest documents filed by 10 automakers with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show. That makes it likely that automakers won't meet the government's Dec. 31 deadline to finish the recalls, most of which began in mid-2015.

Defective Takata air bag inflators can hurl shrapnel at drivers and passengers involved in a crash. At least 18 deaths have been reported worldwide, including 12 in the U.S. Inflators with a greater risk of rupturing, deemed "Priority One" by NHTSA, are older, are of a type more prone to failing, or they've been in high humidity areas for many years. Just last week, Florida authorities were investigating whether an exploding inflator in an older Honda Accord killed a 34-year-old mother of three near Tampa.

Of NHTSA's 15 highest-priority recalls, 10 had completion rates below 50 percent on the latest quarterly reports from automakers. In one recall of Ford Ranger pickups, the completion percentage was only 1.1 percent. In six recalls, fewer than one-third of the inflators had been replaced.

"The long and short of it is the recall is failing," said U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Florida, a frequent NHTSA critic. Florida has more than 3 million recalled inflators with only about one-third replaced, according to Nelson's office.

Overall, 46 million inflators have been recalled as of June 23. The government says automakers have replaced 16 million, about 40 percent. But more recalls are coming, which will put a further strain on car companies, dealers and owners to get the repairs done.

NHTSA say it's "deeply concerned" that some automakers have low completion rates. In a 2015 order, NHTSA threatened fines against automakers who don't comply with deadlines. Asked if fines are possible, an agency spokeswoman said it is monitoring compliance "and will take further action as appropriate."

Automakers say completion rates are improving and they're cooperating with the government. Some say they've had trouble getting parts, and most have had difficulty finding owners and persuading them to get cars repaired. Subaru, Mitsubishi and Nissan did not respond to requests for comment.

Critics such as Nelson say NHTSA is rudderless under the Trump administration. Since President Donald Trump took office, the agency has been without an administrator and two top deputies. But the recalls were moving slowly before Trump took office, records show.

Ford's slow response in the January 2016 recall of driver-side inflators in Ford Ranger pickups means thousands of trucks with dangerous inflators are still being driven. A South Carolina man was killed by an inflator in December of 2015 when his Ranger crashed. Only 511 of the nearly 362,000 recalled Rangers from the 2004 through 2006 model years have been fixed, with another 3,500 owners unreachable or vehicles removed from use, according to Ford's latest report. Ford had two other recalls from 2015 with completion rates under 40 percent.

Spokeswoman Elizabeth Weigandt says Ford has been replacing Ranger inflators in high-risk areas with newer versions of the same inflators that are in the vehicles now, with the intent of swapping them for safer ones later, she says. Since the inflators deteriorate over time, newer ones are better.

"We are working with our suppliers to expedite final remedy parts for these vehicles and expect those to be available in early fourth quarter 2017," she says, declining further comment.

Quarterly reports filed by BMW, Fiat Chrysler, Daimler Vans, Nissan, Mazda and Mitsubishi all showed completion rates under 50 percent. Daimler hit only 8.4 percent and BMW reached 28.6 percent. Fiat Chrysler's lone recall came in at 48 percent, while one Toyota recall was above 50 percent and another just below. Subaru hit 57 percent. Due to a parts supplier problem, BMW got a five-month deadline extension.

Most of the reports are as of March 31, the latest available. Fiat Chrysler and Subaru figures are from the second quarter, while the latest available Nissan and Mitsubishi reports were from last year's third quarter. At that time, Mitsubishi was at 31 percent, while Nissan reached just 25.6 percent.

Even Honda, which has replaced over 63 percent of the inflators in its two "Priority One" recalls, has 3.3 million inflators left to fix.

In a letter to senators, NHTSA Acting Deputy Administrator Jack Danielson wrote that automakers have had enough time to get replacement parts.

Several vehicle owners say dealers are still turning them away for lack of parts. John Carroll of Bel Air, Maryland, near Baltimore, says he checks with his dealer often to see if an inflator has arrived for his 2010 Mercedes ML350 driver's air bag.

"The answer is always the same. They don't have the parts yet," says Carroll.

To get over 60 percent, Honda set up teams in major metro areas who visit owners' homes. In some cases, Honda will send technicians to fix cars in driveways. The company also has used letters, social media and telephone calls to reach owners, spokesman Chris Martin says.

NHTSA has urged automakers to take steps similar to Honda, and it has hired a monitor to watch the automakers.

Don't try this: Thieves steal iPhones from moving truck

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Dutch police arrested five Romanian men suspected of stealing iPhones worth 500,000 euros ($590,000) in a dangerous heist on a moving truck, a spokesman said Monday.

The five men, aged from 33 to 43, allegedly stole the iPhones in a late-night raid a week ago by driving a modified van so close to the delivery truck that one of the suspects was able to clamber across the van's hood and break into the truck while it drove along a Dutch road, police spokesman Ed Kraszewski. He said the suspect then passed boxes of iPhones back to the van through a hole cut in its roof.

Kraszewski said police have long been investigating thefts from trucks but remained skeptical that such a heist could succeed. Not anymore.

"The truck was taking its freight from A-to-B and did not stop. Even so, (the phones) were gone," he said. "So it must have happened that way. And now we finally have the evidence, with the van and the loot."

The men were arrested Saturday at a holiday park in the central Netherlands, where police also recovered iPhones and the van they believe was used in the theft. The suspects were to appear Tuesday before an investigating judge.

Such raids have been reported elsewhere in Europe, almost always targeting high-end smartphones, but there have been no arrests in the other cases, Kraszewski said.

Dutch police plan to send fingerprints of the suspects to European colleagues to check for matches in previous thefts.

With Uber in turmoil, Lyft's ridership surpasses all of 2016

DETROIT (AP)—Ride-hailing service Lyft carried more passengers through June this year than it did in all of last year as it capitalized on missteps by Uber.

Ridership through June surpassed the record 162.5 million rides it gave in all of 2016, Lyft said Monday. A spokeswoman wouldn't give an exact number.

The company has made its gains as some people avoid Lyft's much larger rival, Uber. Both companies are based in San Francisco.

Uber has been without a CEO since June when company co-founder Travis Kalanick stepped down under pressure from the board. The departure took place after investigations by outside law firms uncovered widespread sexual harassment at the company. Kalanick also was captured on video in a profanity-laced tirade toward an Uber driver, and the company is under federal investigation for allegedly using software to thwart city inspectors who were trying to monitor its drivers.

And finding a replacement for Kalanick has not gone smoothly. The reported front-runner, Hewlett Packard Enterprise CEO Meg Whitman announced on Thursday that she would not take the job. Media reports say some board members are now talking to outgoing General Electric CEO Jeffrey Immelt. The New York Times reported Monday that Kalanick may attempt to regain an operational role in the company he helped to create.

Lyft wouldn't comment on Uber but says it added 160 U.S. cities this year. The company operates only in the U.S.

Uber says it's given more than 5 billion rides worldwide since 2010.

Lyft confirmed its 2017 ridership numbers for the first time Monday while announcing the appointment of a new board member. Former Obama administration senior adviser Valerie Jarrett is the board's 10th member. She was assistant to the president for public engagement and intergovernmental affairs for his entire term, according to Lyft.

Nation

Kelly shows clout: Scaramucci out as WH chief moves in

WASHINGTON (AP)—Firmly taking charge in an unruly White House, former Gen. John Kelly moved in Monday as President Donald Trump's new chief of staff and immediately made sure that Trump's profanity-spouting new communications director was shown the door, ignominiously ousted after less than two weeks on the job.

It was the latest head-snapping sequence of events at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, but Trump dismissed any talk of disarray. He insisted in a morning tweet there was "No WH chaos," then followed up in the evening with a satisfied "great day at the White House."

Aiming to instill some discipline in the White House, Kelly showed Anthony Scaramucci the door just days after the new communications director had unleashed an expletive-laced tirade against senior staff members that included vulgar broadsides at then-chief of staff Reince Priebus. In short order, Priebus was pushed aside and replaced by Kelly, whose arrival led in turn to Scaramucci's departure.

AP

In this July 21, 2017 photo, incoming White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci, right, blowing a kiss after answering questions during the press briefing in the Brady Press Briefing room of the White House in Washington.

The communication director's tenure was the stuff of Shakespearian drama—though brief enough to be just a morbid sonnet.

Scaramucci's exit underscored the challenges that Kelly, the former homeland security chief, faces in bringing order to a West Wing where a wide swath of aides have reported directly to the president, feeling free to walk into Trump's Oval Office or buttonhole him in the hallway to lobby for conflicting agendas. Backstabbing among aides has been rife, and rival camps have jockeyed for position.

And then there is president himself, who uses tweets at all hours to fling out new policy announcements, insult critics and even go after fellow Republicans who don't toe his line.

The ongoing investigation into Russia's meddling in the election is another source of unease. Monday night, The Washington Post reported that Trump himself had dictated the July 8 statement in which his son Donald Jr. described a June 2016 meeting with a Russian lawyer.

The statement said Trump Jr. and other top figures in the Trump campaign "primarily discussed a program about the adoption of Russian children" with the lawyer. Emails released later by Trump Jr. showed that the meeting was suggested to the Trump campaign as a means to deliver damaging material about Trump's election opponent, Hillary Clinton.

Trump attorney Jay Sekulow said Monday night of the Post story, "Apart from being of no consequence, the characterizations are misinformed, inaccurate and not pertinent."

The Associated Press has reported previously that Trump approved of the statement, which was crafted on the flight back from the Group of 20 summit in Germany in early July.

On Kelly's first day, the White House put out word that the retired four-star general had free rein to tighten the chain of command.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Kelly "has the full authority to carry out business as he sees fit" and that all White House staffers will report to him, including powerful aides such as Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump, her husband, Jared Kushner, and chief strategist Steve Bannon.

Kelly "will bring new structure, discipline and strength" to the White House, she said.

Transgender US soldier felt 'fired' by Trump's tweet

BERATZHAUSEN, Germany (AP)—The subject line read: "Announcing a personal change."

The U.S. Army soldier took a deep breath before hitting the button that sent the email to more than 200 fellow troops.

"All considered, I am, and have been, traversing what is essentially a personal matter, but is something I must address publicly," the email stated. "I am transgender."

The April 13 email officially ended the secret that burned inside Capt. Jennifer Sims, who was known as Jonathan Sims. But the feeling of relief swiftly turned to unease last week after President Donald Trump tweeted that transgender troops were no longer welcome.

"I read the tweet while I was at work and you know it was devastating because I still have work to do and here I am reading basically what sounds like the president of the United States—who is the commander in chief, he is the ultimate boss of the military—telling me and anybody else that is transgender that we are fired," Sims said.

Pentagon officials say the policy allowing transgender troops will remain unchanged without official White House guidance. But for Sims, the uncertainty has been upsetting.

"So in the initial moments after the tweet, I saw myself forced into the state that I was in before I started transitioning—a state of depression, exhaustion and inability to enjoy things," said Sims, 28, who spoke to The Associated Press on her own behalf and not on that of the Army.

The reversal of the Obama administration policy that allows transgender people to serve openly and receive military medical coverage for transitioning from one gender to another also could affect her physically.

Sims has been on hormone therapy by her military doctor since November. If she interrupts the treatment, her body will revert to being male.

"It would be very difficult to have to go through that," said Sims, who is based at Hohenfels, a U.S. Army garrison in the German state of Bavaria.

Growing up in Minnesota and Florida, Sims, a high school football player, never felt comfortable being male. The son and grandson of military veterans quietly came to terms with identifying as a woman a year after joining the Army R.O.T.C., but outwardly kept it a secret "because I wanted to continue serving," Sims said.

Sims stopped socializing, feeling drained over worries about being masculine enough, and instead focused on work, serving in Afghanistan, Indonesia and Germany. Her sister, Natasha Sims, 24, said she saw "emptiness" in her eyes.

After the Defense Department announced in 2015 that it was considering allowing transgender troops to serve openly, Sims told Natasha and their parents. When the policy became official in June 2016, Sims said "it was the best day of my life really."

Sims made an appointment with the behavioral health office, was given a diagnosis of gender dysphoria and started hormone therapy.

ACROSS THE NATION

Hawaii allows first lab to begin testing medical marijuana

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii approved its first laboratory to begin testing samples of medical marijuana 17 years after use of the drug was legalized in the state. On Monday, the state Department of Health certified Honolulu-based lab Steep Hill Hawaii. That brings Hawaii closer to the long-awaited date when dispensaries can sell their products. Hawaii was among the first states to legalize medical marijuana in 2000. But the state didn't legalize dispensaries until 2015, leaving about 17,000 patients to grow or obtain the drug on their own. Then medical marijuana dispensaries began opening in Hawaii this summer, but they could not sell their products because the state had not certified any labs to conduct the required testing. So they conducted outreach instead.

Jailbreak: Inmates used peanut butter to fool guard

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—A dozen inmates escaped from an Alabama jail by using peanut butter to change the numbers above a door and trick a new employee into opening another door that led outside, a sheriff said Monday. The inmates changed the number above a cell to the number that identified the door leading outside the jail. So when an inmate asked a young, inexperienced jailer to let him into his cell, the jailer was fooled into opening the outside door instead. The group then fled, throwing off their orange uniforms and using blankets to climb over a fence topped with razor wire on Sunday evening. "It may sound crazy, but these people are crazy like a fox," Walker County Sheriff James Underwood said at a news conference in Jasper. Inmates "scheme all the time to con us and our employees at the jail," Underwood added. "You have to stay on your toes. This is one time we slipped up. I'm not going to make any excuses."

Videos, DNA evidence may be key in St. Louis officer's trial

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A former St. Louis police officer's murder trial that begins this week is expected to hinge on videos and DNA evidence that have raised questions about the officer's actions after the shooting and the weapon recovered by police. Jason Stockley, who's white, is charged with first-degree murder and armed criminal action in the 2011 shooting death of Anthony Lamar Smith, a black 24-year-old. Charges were filed last year after then-Circuit Attorney Jennifer Joyce cited unspecified new evidence. The trial, the latest of several across the U.S. involving the fatal police shootings of black men, begins Tuesday and is expected to last two weeks. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports that Smith was shot following a police chase during a drug investigation. Circuit Judge Timothy Wilson has ordered lawyers and witnesses not to discuss the case, but evidence will certainly include video , both from police and from a bystander. A key issue is a .38-caliber Taurus revolver police said was found in Smith's car. Police reports say Stockley's DNA—but not Smith's—was on the gun. Stockley told investigators he unloaded the revolver as a safety precaution after the shooting.

Asia

Xi says China will never permit loss of 'any piece' of land

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese President Xi Jinping issued a tough line on national sovereignty Tuesday amid multiple territorial disputes with his country's neighbors, saying China will never permit the loss of "any piece" of its land to outsiders.

Xi's declaration came during a nearly one-hour speech in Beijing marking the 90th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army, which is the world's largest standing military, with 2.3 million members, and has formed a key pillar of support for the ruling Communist Party since 1927.

"The Chinese people treasure peace and we absolutely do not engage in invasion and expansion. However, we have the confidence to conquer all forms of invasion," Xi told government leaders and current and retired PLA members gathered at the hulking Great Hall of the People, the seat of the legislature that sits beside Tiananmen Square.

"We absolutely will not permit any person, any organization, any political party—at any time, in any form—to separate any piece of Chinese territory from China," Xi said to applause. "No one should expect us to swallow the bitter fruit of damage to our sovereignty, security and development interests."

AP

Chinese President Xi Jinping speaks during a ceremony to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2017.

Xi made no reference to any specific conflicts or disputes during his address, which focused largely on the PLA's growth from a scrappy guerrilla force fighting Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists and Japanese invaders into one of the world's most powerful, if largely untested, militaries.

However, China is currently engaged in a weeks-long border standoff with Indian forces near the countries' disputed border high in the Himalayas, with Chinese spokesmen demanding that Indian troops withdraw to avoid a clash potentially worse than the brief but bloody war the two fought in the region in 1962.

China has also long been embroiled in a contest with Japan over East China Sea islands, as well as with five other governments over competing claims to territory in the strategically vital South China Sea. Beijing also threatens to use force to conquer Taiwan if peaceful enticements prove insufficient. China considers the self-governing democratic island Chinese territory.

In his speech, Xi also emphasized that the military's highest loyalty is to the ruling Communist Party, underscoring the PLA's key role as regime preserver through crises such as the bloody suppression of 1989 pro-democracy protests at Tiananmen Square. Top Chinese leaders have consistently rejected calls to make the PLA loyal to the government and people instead.

"The people's army will resolutely safeguard the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and our country's socialist system, resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, and resolutely safeguard regional and world peace," Xi said.

The speech followed a parade Sunday at a training ground on the edge of the Gobi Desert during which Xi donned fatigues and declared that the military has the "confidence and capability" to ensure China's sovereignty, security and national interests.

Xi, who commands the PLA as chairman of the Central Military Commission, has frequently spoken of his "China Dream" to restore China to a leadership position in international affairs with a modern, far-reaching military force to match.

The parade at the Zhurihe base in Inner Mongolia featured troops and advanced weaponry, and was another forceful indication of Xi's iron grip over the PLA and every other political power base within the party ahead of a pivotal congress this autumn that will award him a second five-year term as leader.

Analysts doubt N. Korea's ICBM re-entry capability

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea after decades of effort has a missile potentially capable of reaching the continental United States, but analysts say Pyongyang has yet to show the ICBM can inflict serious damage once it gets there.

U.S. and South Korean experts on Tuesday said Japanese video footage capturing the Hwasong-14's re-entry vehicle shortly before it crashed into the sea suggests it failed to survive the extreme heat and pressure after re-entering the Earth's atmosphere following its launch from northern North Korea on Friday.

But the apparent failure likely means the North will conduct more flight tests of the Hwasong-14 missile to ensure the warhead could survive the re-entry from space and hit its intended target, the analyst said.

The Hwasong-14 ICBM, which was first tested on July 4, follows decades of effort by North Korea to obtain a nuclear deterrent against the United States. Analysis of the flight data from Hwasong-14's second test has suggested that more of the U.S. mainland, including Los Angeles and Chicago, is now in range of Pyongyang's weapons.

However, whether North Korea can arm the missile with a nuclear warhead and protect it throughout the flight are different questions entirely.

After analyzing video from a rooftop camera operated by Japan's NHK television on the northern island of Hokkaido, U.S. missile expert Michael Elleman concluded that Hwasong-14's re-entry vehicle "disintegrated" before it landed at sea.

In an article posted at the 38 North website, Elleman said the video showed the re-entry vehicle shedding small radiant objects at an altitude of 4 to 5 kilometers (2.5 to 3 miles). He said the re-entry vehicle dims and quickly disappears at an altitude of 3 to 4 kilometers (1.9 to 2.5 miles) before it passes behind a mountain range and is obscured from the camera's view. Had the re-entry vehicle survived, it would have continued to glow until disappearing behind the mountains, Elleman said.

"In short, a reasonable conclusion based on the video evidence is that the Hwasong-14's re-entry vehicle did not survive during its second test," said Elleman, an expert with the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "If this assessment accurately reflects reality, North Korea's engineers have yet to master re-entry technologies and more work remains before Kim Jong Un has an ICBM capable of striking the American mainland."

Granted, it's impossible to know how the warhead would have performed if North Korea had launched the missile for real. Both ICBMs were test-launched at highly lofted angles to reduce the range and avoid neighboring countries, and the near-vertical flight paths meant the re-entry vehicles endured harsher conditions during their descents.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH police say crackdown to target more drug lords

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine national police chief warned Monday that law enforcers will be going after more drug lords following a raid that left 15 people dead, including a city mayor who was among politicians President Rodrigo Duterte had publicly linked to illegal drugs. Police Director General Ronald dela Rosa said authorities are building up cases against more illegal drug operators included on Duterte's list, warning that the police will enforce the law "without fear or favor." Officers were about to serve warrants early Sunday to Ozamiz Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog Sr. to search his houses for the suspected presence of unlicensed firearms when gunmen opened fire on the police, sparking clashes that killed the mayor and at least 14 other people, said Ozamiz police chief Jovie Espenido. Espenido, who oversaw the simultaneous, post-midnight raids on Parojinog's residence and three other houses, described the mayor as a "high-value target on illegal drugs."

PH troops capture key bridge near Marawi militants

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops have captured a key bridge leading to the main position of Islamic State group-linked militants in the southern city of Marawi but won't stage a major assault and will instead press efforts to rescue civilian hostages, an official said Monday. Government troops gained control last week of Mapandi bridge, which leads to Marawi's interior business district, where just 40 to 60 remaining militants are believed to be holding 80 to 100 hostages, mostly in a large mosque, said military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla. But a major assault wasn't imminent, he said. "We now have direct access to ground zero," Padilla said at a news conference in Manila, referring to the bridge over Marawi's Agus River that can now be used to rapidly transport troops and combat supplies. "Our main objective is to rescue the hostages."

Former Thai PM says she's innocent, asks for 'kindness'

BANGKOK (AP)—Former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra declared her innocence and asked for "kindness" from a court Tuesday during closing arguments in a criminal negligence trial that could land her in prison for 10 years. The case centers around a rice subsidy that Thailand's current military government says she grossly mishandled. Yingluck's bank accounts were frozen after an administrative ruling held her responsible for about $1 billion in losses from the subsidy. "I beg the court for kindness and please dismiss the charge," Yingluck said in her closing statement Tuesday, according to prepared remarks. Yingluck's supporters believe she is being persecuted by opponents of her brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a 2006 coup. Hundreds of supporters outside the packed court Tuesday shouted "Prime minister, fight, fight!"

World

Russia urges US to fix ties as it cuts US diplomatic staff

MOSCOW (AP)—Amid a major diplomatic retaliation unseen since the Cold War era, Russia urged the United States on Monday to show the "political will" to repair ties.

President Vladimir Putin's move to cut hundreds of U.S. diplomatic personnel in Russia underlines his readiness to raise the ante in the face of new sanctions approved by the U.S. Congress. The Russian leader warned that he has more tricks up his sleeve to hurt the U.S., but he voiced hope that he wouldn't need to use them.

Vice President Mike Pence, visiting neighboring Estonia, said he hoped for "better days and better relations with Russia."

Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said it will take time for the U.S. to recover from what he called "political schizophrenia," but he added that Russia wants constructive cooperation with Washington.

"We are interested in a steady development of our ties and are sorry to note that we are still far from that," he said.

Peskov's statement followed televised comments Sunday by Putin, who said the U.S. would have to cut 755 of its embassy and consular staff in Russia, a massive reduction he described as a response to new U.S. sanctions.

AP

Russian sailors stand in attention as Russian President Vladimir Putin leaves after attending the military parade during the Navy Day celebration in St. Petersburg, Russia, on Sunday, July 30, 2017.

The Russian Foreign Ministry first announced the cuts Friday, when it said that the U.S. should reduce its presence to 455 employees, the number that Russia has in the United States. It also declared the closure of a U.S. recreational retreat on the outskirts of Moscow and warehouse facilities.

Moscow's action is the long-expected tit-for-tat response to former U.S. President Barack Obama's move to expel 35 Russian diplomats and shut down two Russian recreational retreats in the U.S. following allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

Putin had refrained from retaliating until now in the hope that President Donald Trump would follow on his campaign promises to improve ties with Moscow and roll back the steps taken by Obama.

The Russian leader hailed his first meeting with Trump on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Germany earlier in July, saying that the talks offered a model for rebuilding relations.

But the congressional and FBI investigations into links between Trump's campaign and Russia have weighed heavily on the White House, derailing Moscow's hopes for an improvement in ties that worsened over the Ukrainian crisis, the war in Syria and other disputes.

The overwhelming endorsement of a new package of stiff financial sanctions that passed Congress with veto-proof numbers last week dealt a new blow to Moscow's aspirations. The White House said Trump will sign the package, and Putin decided to fire back without waiting for that to happen.

"We had hoped for quite a long time that the situation will somehow change, but apparently if it changes, it won't be soon," Putin said in remarks broadcast by state television late Sunday. "I thought it was the time for us to show that we're not going to leave anything without an answer."

The diplomatic personnel reductions are the harshest such move since 1986, when Moscow and Washington expelled dozens of diplomats.

The U.S. State Department called Putin's move "a regrettable and uncalled-for act."

Pence said in the Estonian capital of Tallinn that the U.S. wants to improve bilateral relations with Russia "despite the recent diplomatic action by Moscow."

"We hope for better days and better relations with Russia," Pence said.

Putin described the cuts in the U.S. Embassy and consular personnel as "painful." Peskov, the Kremlin spokesman, said it would be up to the U.S. to determine who should leave.

Maduro says he will radically overhaul Venezuela's system

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Nicolas Maduro brushed off new U.S. sanctions on him and condemnation at home and abroad of the newly chosen constitutional assembly, saying the vote has given him a popular mandate to radically overall Venezuela's political system.

Maduro said Monday evening he had no intention of deviating from his plans to rewrite the constitution and go after a string of enemies, from independent Venezuelan news channels to gunmen he claimed were sent by neighboring Colombia to disrupt the vote as part of an international conspiracy led by the man he calls "Emperor Donald Trump."

"They don't intimidate me. The threats and sanctions of the empire don't intimidate me for a moment," Maduro said on national television. "I don't listen to orders from the empire, not now or ever ... Bring on more sanctions, Donald Trump."

A few hours earlier, Washington added Maduro to a steadily growing list of high-ranking Venezuelan officials targeted by financial sanctions, escalating a tactic that has so far failed to alter his socialist government's behavior. For now, the Trump administration did not deliver on threats to sanction Venezuela's oil industry, which could undermine Maduro's government but raise U.S. gas prices and deepen the humanitarian crisis here.

The sanctions came after electoral authorities said more than 8 million people voted Sunday to create a constitutional assembly endowing Maduro's ruling party with virtually unlimited powers—a turnout doubted by independent analysts while the election was labeled illegitimate by leaders across the Americans and Europe.

Venezuela's National Electoral Council said turnout in Sunday's vote was 41.53 percent, or 8,089,320 people. The result would mean the ruling party won more support than it had in any national election since 2013, despite a cratering economy, spiraling inflation, shortages of medicine and malnutrition. Opinion polls had said some 85 percent of Venezuelans disapproved of the constitutional assembly and similar numbers disapproved of Maduro's overall performance.

Opposition leaders estimated the real turnout at less than half the government's claim in a vote watched by government-allied observers but no internationally recognized poll monitors.

An exit poll based on surveys from 110 voting centers by New York investment bank Torino Capital and a Venezuela public opinion company estimated 3.6 million people voted, or about 18.5 percent of registered voters.

The electoral council's vote counts in the past had been seen as reliable and generally accurate, but the widely mocked announcement appeared certain to escalate the polarization and political conflict paralyzing the country.

"If it wasn't a tragedy ... if it didn't mean more crisis, the electoral council's number would almost make you laugh," opposition leader Freddy Guevara said on Twitter. Maduro has threatened that one of the constitutional assembly's first acts would be jailing Guevara for inciting violence.

The constituent assembly will have the task of rewriting the country's constitution and will have powers above and beyond other state institutions, including the opposition-controlled congress.

Maduro has said the new assembly will begin to govern within a week. Among other measures, he said he would use the assembly's powers to bar opposition candidates from running in gubernatorial elections in December unless they sit with his party to negotiate an end to hostilities that have generated four months of protests that have killed at least 120 and wounded nearly 2,000.

Along with the U.S., the European Union and nations including Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Spain and Britain criticized Sunday's vote. Maduro said he had received congratulations from the governments of Cuba, Bolivia and Nicaragua, among others.

WikiLeaks issues leaked Macron campaign emails to its site

PARIS (AP)—Roughly 20,000 emails allegedly stolen from French President Emmanuel Macron's campaign have been digitally verified and published to WikiLeaks, the group said Monday.

The emails caused a stir when they were initially published just two days before France's May 7 presidential runoff, which pitted Macron against French far-right leader Marine Le Pen. But unlike the leaks that rattled the 2016 American presidential race, the French email leak had little if any impact and Macron still handily beat Le Pen. The messages have since been picked over by the French press, although WikiLeaks' move may draw new attention to them.

In a statement, Macron's political party accused WikiLeaks of taking up the "destabilization operation" launched in May and said it would inform prosecutors.

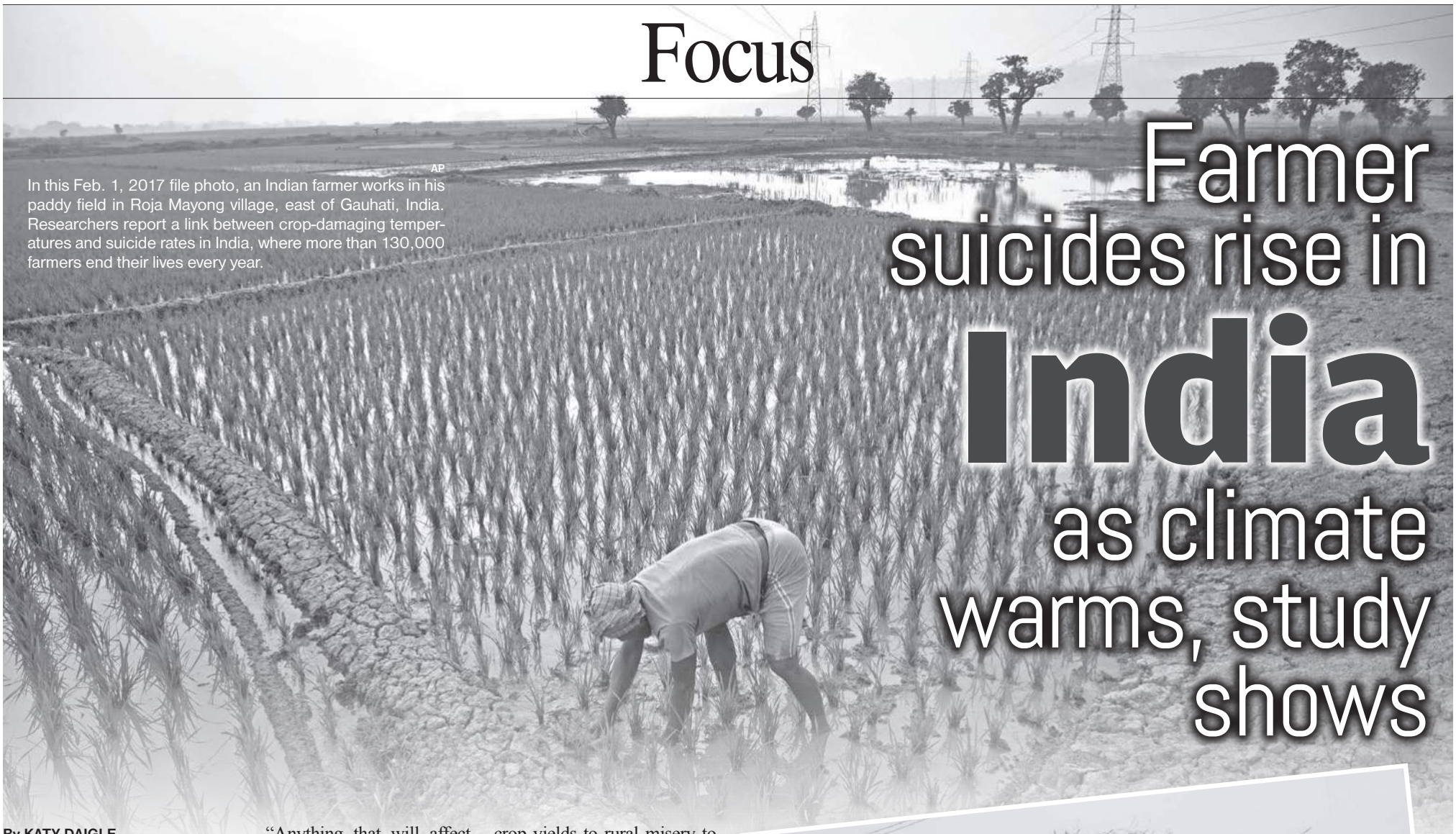
The question of who was responsible for the initial leak of the Macron campaign emails remains unsolved.

The head of France's cybersecurity agency ANSSI said in June there was no evidence tying the hacking of the Macron campaign emails to any particular actor, saying it "really could be anyone."

WikiLeaks said it verified its batch of emails using DomainKeys Identified Mail—or DKIM—signatures, a cryptographic protocol that acts like a digital shipping manifest and has become an increasingly popular way for researchers and tech-savvy journalists to prove that emails are authentic.

WikiLeaks said the rest of the emails—about 50,000 of them—were being included "for context."

Focus



AP
In this Feb. 1, 2017 file photo, an Indian farmer works in his paddy field in Roja Mayong village, east of Gauhati, India. Researchers report a link between crop-damaging temperatures and suicide rates in India, where more than 130,000 farmers end their lives every year.

Farmer suicides rise in India as climate warms, study shows

By KATY DAIGLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW DELHI (AP)—When Rani's husband died by drinking pesticide, he left the family in debt. But even if they could pay off the loans, Rani said their farming days are over.

"There are no rains," said the 44-year-old woman from drought-stricken Tamil Nadu, one of hundreds of farmers protesting in the capital for more government support. "Even for drinking, we get water only once in 10 days."

A new study suggests that India will see more such tragedies as climate change brings hotter temperatures that damage crops and exacerbate drought. For every 1 degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming above 20 degrees C (68 degrees F) during the growing season in India, there are 67 more suicides on average, according to the findings published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, or PNAS.

The message "is that farming is an inherently risky occupation, with annual incomes often held hostage to the weather, and it's getting riskier in the era of climate change," said Vikram Patel, an Indian psychiatrist and mental health expert with Harvard Medical School in Boston who was not involved in the study.

Experts said the study's findings should raise alarms, especially with India's average temperatures expected to rise another 3 degrees C (5.4 degrees F) by 2050. That will bring more erratic weather events, more drought and stronger storms.

"Anything that will affect occupational stability is going to affect farmers' mental health," Patel said.

Farming has always been considered a high-risk profession, and a single damaged harvest can drive some to desperation. With agriculture supporting more than half of India's 1.3 billion people, farmers have long been seen as the heart and soul of the country. But they've also seen their economic clout diminish over the last three decades. Once accounting for a third of India's gross domestic product, they now contribute only 15 percent of India's $2.26 billion economy.

There are many factors that can contribute to suicide, including poor crop yields, financial devastation or debt, access to easy methods of self-harm, or a lack of community support. In India, many farmers will drink toxic pesticides as a way out of backbreaking debt, with the government in some cases guaranteeing monetary aid to their surviving families. That provides a perverse incentive for suicide, "rewarding people who end their lives by paying family compensation, but only if they die," Patel said.

"We may not be able to stop the world from warming, but that doesn't mean we can't do something to address suicide," including providing more financial stability and paying more attention to mental health, he said.

The study released Monday should make those efforts even more urgent, experts said.

"It provides evidence for a causal pathway—from unfavorable weather to poor crop yields to rural misery to increased suicide," said Dr. Howard Frumkin, a University of Washington environmental health professor who was not involved in the study. "With climate change bringing increasingly chaotic weather in many places, this causal pathway is likely to intensify."

India's farmers are already hit regularly by strong storms, extreme drought, heat waves and other extreme weather events. Some still rely on natural rainfall to water their crops. Scientists have shown that extreme weather events are already increasing as the planet warms.

For the study, researcher Tamma Carleton looked at suicide data from India's National Crime Records Bureau between 1967 and 2013, along with data on agricultural crop yields and on temperature change.

"I estimate that warming temperature trends over the last three decades have already been responsible for over 59,000 suicides throughout India," writes Carleton, who studies agriculture and resource economics at the University of California, Berkeley. In other words, warmer temperatures were a factor accounting for a 6.8 percent increase in suicides, the study says.

She noted limitations in the study, including an inability to differentiate between urban and rural suicides because the crime records bureau only began classifying farmer suicides in 1995. Other experts also noted that the actual number of suicides may be higher than the crime database counted, but said these concerns were unlikely to undermine the study's core findings.

AP
In this Dec. 11, 2016 file photo, Indian farmer women walk carrying straw on their heads at Basi village on the outskirts of Allahabad, India. Researchers report a link between crop-damaging temperatures and suicide rates in India, where more than 130,000 farmers end their lives every year.

India's farmers, often complaining about being ignored, hold frequent protests to demand better crop prices, more loan waivers and even water delivery systems to guarantee irrigation during dry spells. Sometimes, they stage sit-ins or dump truckloads of vegetables onto highways to disrupt traffic.

For the past month, hundreds of farmers—some carrying human skulls they say are from farmers who committed suicide in the drought-stricken southern state of Tamil Nadu—have been staging what they say will be a 100-day protest in a central New Delhi square to "prevent the suicide of farmers who feed the nation."

The government recently introduced legislation to subsidize a crop insurance scheme aimed at reducing some of the financial risk faced by farmers who take out loans to buy seeds and agrochemicals. But experts note there is almost no discussion about mental health as it relates to India's farming community.

Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh told lawmakers Thursday there were 11,458 farmer suicides in 2016—the lowest number in two decades. It was also a year of mild temperatures and normal monsoon rains.

He acknowledged that the number of farmer suicides had gone up by about 9 percent in each of the previous two years, both of which were marred by drought. The crime bureau found that 58 percent of the 12,602 farmer suicides in 2015 were driven by bankruptcy, indebtedness and other farming-related issues. Most of the victims were marginal cultivators or small farm holders with less than 2 hectares (5 acres) of land.

"Suicides occur due to extreme economic despair," said M.S. Swaminathan, a geneticist whose work on high-yield rice and wheat crops helped drive India's Green Revolution in the 1960s. His research in the late 1980s found that a 1 degree C (1.8 degree F) temperature rise reduced a crop's duration by about one week, causing losses in the overall weight of harvest. His foundation works to find farming solutions not only to rising heat, but also to drought or salinity from coastal sea rise. Given these growing risks, he said, government policy has a large role to play.

"Suitable crop insurance and a prompt compensation of losses due to climate-related factors will help to avoid a sense of hopelessness that leads to suicide," Swaminathan said.

Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING

Chantilly Lace and Pinky Winky dazzling in blooms, bees, and butterflies

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The Hydrangea paniculatas have to be the showiest plant in the summer garden, and I have an-affection for them all. Chantilly Lace and Pinky Winky, however, has captured my heart not only for their beauty but their proclivity to attract pollinators.

Here at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, we have several of the leading varieties of what we call the panicle hydrangeas. With 51 acres and the hydrangeas spread out, I have not paid much attention to any visiting pollinators.

Everyone loves them against a backdrop of deep green garden foliage or combined with cottage garden plants like rudbeckias. Bees, butterflies, wasps, and, giant flies, however, will make you want to add a little dazzle like Chantilly Lace or Pinky Winky to the backyard wildlife habitat.

Panicle hydrangea is cold hardy and recommended from zones 3-8 (9). In Savannah where we push zone 9, they do superbly. This means just about the whole country can grow them.

The Hydrangea paniculata or panicle varieties are different than the mophead or French hydrangea, the leaves are smaller, and the number of flowers is incredible. The flowers may be 6- to 15-inches long and most

TNS

This tachinid fly is as large as a bumble bee and frequents the blossoms of the Chantilly Lace hydrangea.

held upright on the plant. You now have a staggering list of choices in the size of your selections from those that are diminutive or dwarf to those reaching 10-foot.

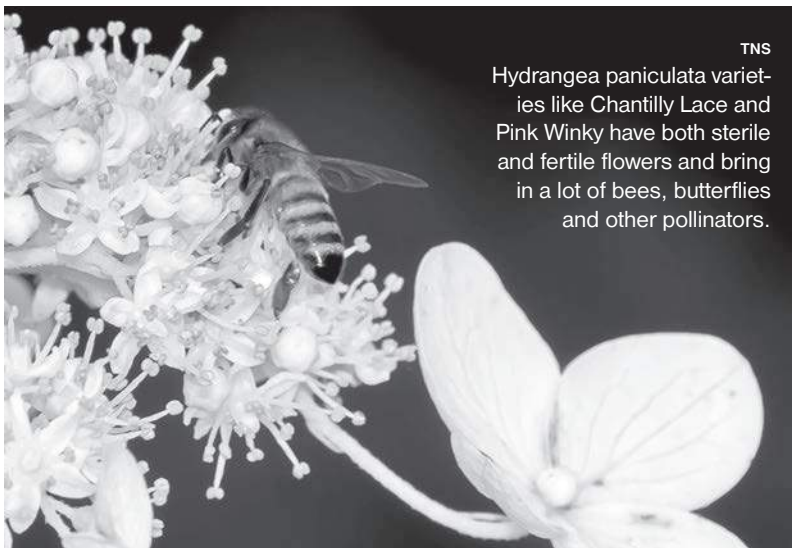
It seems not one nursery or catalog description, however, mentions pollinators in association with the hydrangea paniculata. Perhaps it is because most have sterile flowers. If you look at internet images, you will indeed see selections that do attract pollinators.

This is an important criterion with many gardeners. These selections like Chantilly Lace or Pinky Winky seem to have an ample quantity of both sterile and fertile blossoms. Though the fertile blossoms are not near as showy, they make up for it in honeybees and other pollinators.

Ideal growing conditions are fertile, well-drained soil with morning sun and afternoon shade. In the landscape, plant it among other shrubs 72 to 80 inches apart in odd-numbered clusters for a terrific, eye-catching display.

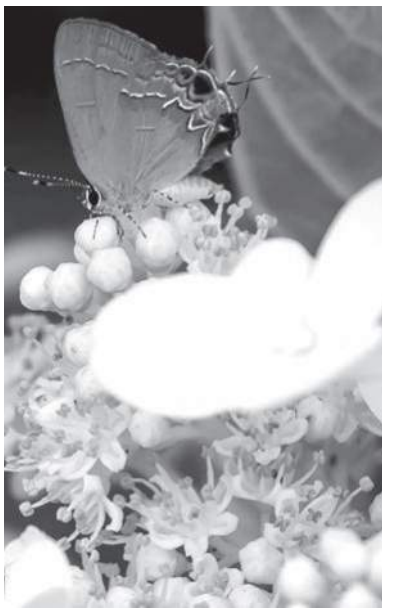
To plant your hydrangea, dig the hole two to three times as wide as the rootball but no deeper so you can plant it at the same depth it is growing in the container. Apply a good layer of mulch to conserve moisture. Once established, you'll find your panicle selection is less dependent on water than its big-leafed cousins.

Soil pH does not affect the color of the flowers like it does with the blue or pink big-leafed hydrangeas. Any flowers left on the plant do provide winter texture and interest. Chantilly Lace, Pinky Winky and the other panicle varieties bloom on new wood, so prune in late fall or early spring. A medium pruning that removes one-third to one-half the plant size gives a better structure for large blossoms and the new season ahead. Feed your hydrangea in early spring as new growth resumes.



TNS

Hydrangea paniculata varieties like Chantilly Lace and Pink Winky have both sterile and fertile flowers and bring in a lot of bees, butterflies and other pollinators.



TNS

This Red-banded Hairstreak butterfly finds this Chantilly Lace hydrangea to be the perfect feast.

Everyone loves hydrangeas, bees, and butterflies and now with varieties of Hydrangea paniculatas like Chantilly Lace and Pinky Winky you can have them all.

TNS

Chantilly Lace is a Hydrangea paniculata variety with both sterile and fertile flowers and reaches 5 to 6 feet in height.

The Garden Bug
Beebalm
Native Americans used beebalm to treat a wide range of ailments, such as soothing bee stings by crushing the leaves of the plant and rubbing them on the skin. The Blackfeet used the plant in poultices applied directly to infections and minor wounds, the Cherokee and Teton Dakota used it to treat stomach ailments, and the Winnebago made a stimulating tea from it. - Brenda Weaver
Sources: plants.usda.gov, getbusygardening.com

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Corn pudding recipe transfers fresh, crisp kernels into rich, creamy goodness

By LEAH ESKIN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

It's not the heat; it's the corn.

Really. Corn, like the rest of us, sweats. It slurps water from the soil and sweats out its underleaves. Millions of acres of sweating corn increase the humidity. It's been know to push the heat index past 130 degrees. That's really hot. And really humid.

"Evapotranspiration" provokes debate, but some climatologists submit it's changing the weather, causing thunderstorms and tornadoes.

Freaky. Or perhaps a freakishly unexpected side effect of large-scale, high-density agriculture.

On these excruciating summer days, take it easy, keep exertion to a minimum and munch local, organic, low-density corn. It's crisp, crunchy — and way cool.

TNS

Keeping some of the corn kernels intact gives the final pudding a contrasting texture.

CORN PUDDING

Prep: 15 minutes
Bake: 15 minutes
Makes: 2 servings
Butter, for ramekins
2 ears of corn, shucked
1 egg
1/4 cup cream
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/8 teaspoon black or white pepper
1 drop vanilla extract
1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil
1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves
Pesto, purchased or homemade, see recipe

1. Prep: Generously butter two (1/2 cup) ramekins.

2. Boil: Bring a pot of water to a boil. Drop in corn. Cook until shocking yellow and just tender, 6-7 minutes. Pull out corn. When cool enough to handle, cut kernels away from cobs.

3. Swirl: Drop half the kernels into the blender. Add egg, cream, salt, pepper and vanilla. Blend completely. (There will be some lumps.) By hand, stir in remaining corn and the basil and thyme.

4. Bake: Pour into the prepared ramekins. Bake at 400 degrees until puffed, golden and set, about 15 minutes. (Stab with a toothpick; it should come out clean.)

5. Serve: Scoop a spoonful of pesto onto each pudding. Dig in.

PESTO

Measure 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt and several grinds black pepper into the food processor. With motor running, drop 4 degermed cloves garlic down the chute, 1 at a time. Stop machine and settle in the bowl 2 cups fresh basil leaves and flowers (or better yet, 1 1/2 cups basil leaves plus 1/2 cup mixed fresh parsley, oregano and thyme leaves). Pulse to bits. Add 1 small fresh tomato, chopped, and swirl chunky. (I find a tomato cuts down on oiliness.) With motor running, slowly pour in 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil. Add 1/3 cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese. Process smooth. Taste and add a smidge of salt if need be. Makes: 1 cup

Life & Style

Appreciation: Sam Shepard embodied, examined American myth

LOS ANGELES (AP)—No one really got to know Sam Shepard—and that was the way he seemed to like it. Despite dozens of blatantly personal plays to his name, movie stardom and the spotlight of celebrity and acclaim, Shepard remained throughout his life an inscrutable figure, an American myth in plain sight.

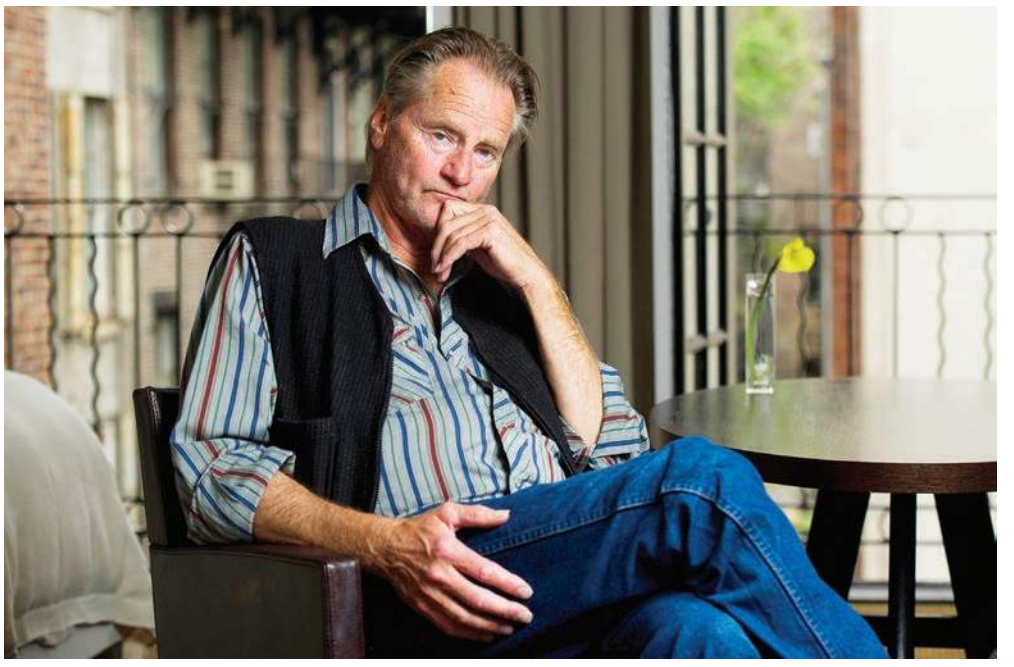
Tortured, private and transient in both life and career, Shepard, who died Thursday at age 73, was in some ways the quintessential American: Full of restlessness, contradictions, and mysteries—and as handsome as they come.

He wrote and lived like life was its own jazz composition—skipping from a post-war California avocado ranch to the experimental East Village theater scene of the 1960s, then to London and Hollywood and back again. He wrote a play with Patti Smith and a song with Bob Dylan, and was the drummer for the "amphetamine rock band" The Holy Modal Rounders. His screenplays include Wim Wenders' western wander poem "Paris, Texas" and Michelangelo Antonioni's Death Valley shocker "Zabriskie Point." He also fathered three children, had a passionate 30-year relationship with movie star Jessica Lange, picked up a Pulitzer Prize for playwriting and an Academy Award nomination for acting along the way—and those are just a few of the highlights.

Shepard once said he did his best writing on the road—literally—one hand on the steering wheel and one holding the pen. He advised that this is best done on a wide open highway, and not in Manhattan.

Born Samuel Shepard Rogers VII in Fort Sheridan, Illinois, in 1943, Shepard was both ardently of his time, innovating new methods of storytelling to impact an anxious era, and also evocative of decades past—forever haunted by the men of his father's generation of World War II vets who he described as "devastated in some basic way." As a kid, he went by Steve Rogers, and claimed that he was unaware until much later that it was also Captain America's civilian name.

Shepard spent his teen years generally apathetic toward school and looking for a way out of the banality of the post-war suburb. In his short stint in college in Walnut, California, he was exposed to the absurdist stylings of Samuel Beckett and decided to leave.



In this Sept. 29, 2011 file photo, actor Sam Shepard poses for a portrait in New York. AP

He had a difficult relationship with his father, who he called "a dedicated alcoholic" with a "real short fuse." Although wary of picking at his own traumas, Shepard explored this and other themes in his "Family Trilogy" of plays including "Curse of the Starving Class," ''Buried Child" and "True West."

Shepard saw the absurdities in his own life too. In April 1979, Shepard was informed that he'd won the Pulitzer Prize for "Buried Child" on the same day it closed. Whether humble or a restless perfectionist, Shepard throughout his life would downplay his own accolades. Of "Buried Child," Shepard said there were a number of lines he thought were "toe-scrunchers."

Although well-versed in Beckett, Eugene O'Neill and Edward Albee, Shepard spoke of his career as a playwright as though it were an accident.

"I don't know how I began writing plays," Shepard said in the documentary "Shepard & Dark." ''I certainly didn't decide to, I just found myself writing plays."

And he cringed at the thought of performing on stage in front of a live audience, which made his transition into film and being a public figure even more curious.

Sam Shepard as movie star and celebrity was perhaps the designation that embarrassed him most.

He made his film debut in Terrence Malick's 1978 dreamy period piece "Days of Heaven," as a wealthy, isolated farmer and romantic foe to Richard Gere. Although he had minimal dialogue, Pauline Kael wrote in The New Yorker that Shepard, "Makes a strong impression."

He'd go on to embody classic masculinity as Chuck Yeager in "The Right Stuff," for which he'd score an Oscar nomination, and charm Lange in the Frances Farmer biopic "Frances" and then Diane Keaton in "Baby Boom."

Aside from his acting, his ideas left an indelible mark on cinema: He dreamt up "Paris, Texas" with Wim Wenders and L.M. Kit Carson.

It was almost ironic that later in life, Shepard occasionally found himself playing men like those in his father's generation. He was memorable as the general in "Black Hawk Down," the outlaw older brother of Jesse James in "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford," a hot-headed patriarch in the Netflix series "Bloodline," and even as Ryan Gosling's country father in "The Notebook."

Shepard was that perfect bundle of contradictions that only an artist could ever justify: Someone who craved privacy and outwardly resented the opposite and yet acted in movies and revealed his rawest truths on the pages of his plays.

Or perhaps he wasn't so oblique after all—just too complicated for the Hollywood celebrity machine.

"Here is a man who could see right through you, who would smell bullshit from a mile," Wenders once said. "He'd rather hurt you than be dishonest. There is no front. He is just all true. With a dissecting sense of humor."

Sen. Flake faults GOP, Democrat partisanship for Trump rise

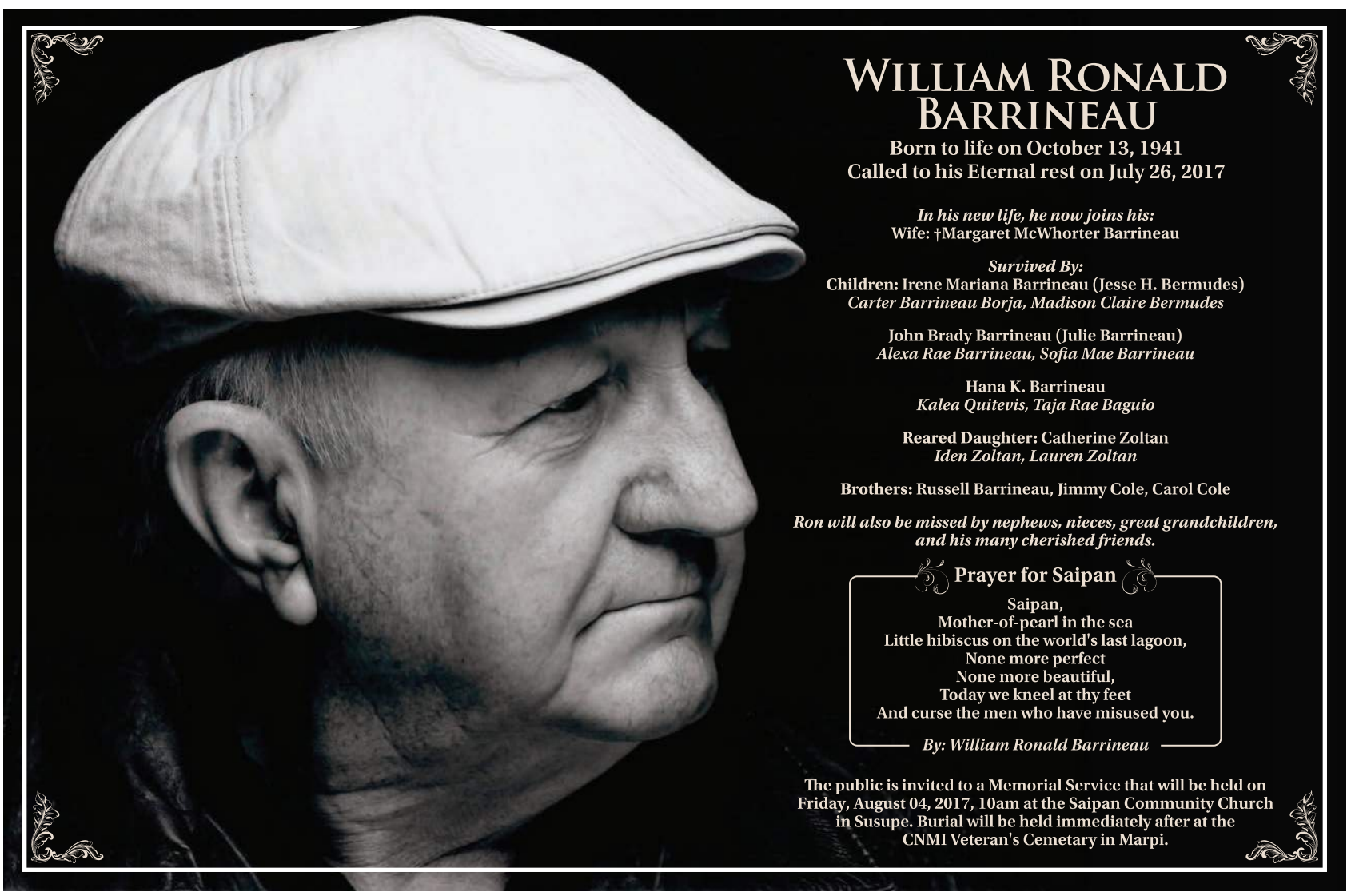
PHOENIX (AP)—Republican Sen. Jeff Flake took his own party to task as well as Democrats, blaming both in a new book for the political gridlock that led to Donald Trump's presidency and its current chaos.

The debut of the Arizona lawmaker's book "Conscience of a Conservative" comes amid turmoil in the White House marked by Anthony Scaramucci's rocky 11 days as communications director and the replacement of the chief of staff.

The book published by Random House goes on sale Tuesday.

Flake says in the book that people who felt abandoned by the top parties were drawn to Trump, "a candidate who entertained them and offered oversimplified answers" to complex issues.

The senator says that since the election conservatives have been in denial as the government at its highest levels has become dysfunctional.


WILLIAM RONALD BARRINEAU
Born to life on October 13, 1941
Called to his Eternal rest on July 26, 2017
In his new life, he now joins his:
Wife: †Margaret McWhorter Barrineau
Survived By:
Children: Irene Mariana Barrineau (Jesse H. Bermudes)
Carter Barrineau Borja, Madison Claire Bermudes
John Brady Barrineau (Julie Barrineau)
Alexa Rae Barrineau, Sofia Mae Barrineau
Hana K. Barrineau
Kalea Quitevis, Taja Rae Baguio
Reared Daughter: Catherine Zoltan
Iden Zoltan, Lauren Zoltan
Brothers: Russell Barrineau, Jimmy Cole, Carol Cole
Ron will also be missed by nephews, nieces, great grandchildren, and his many cherished friends.
Prayer for Saipan
Saipan,
Mother-of-pearl in the sea
Little hibiscus on the world's last lagoon,
None more perfect
None more beautiful,
Today we kneel at thy feet
And curse the men who have misused you.
By: William Ronald Barrineau
The public is invited to a Memorial Service that will be held on Friday, August 04, 2017, 10am at the Saipan Community Church in Susupe. Burial will be held immediately after at the CNMI Veteran's Cemetary in Marpi.

Study says films exclude women, Hispanics

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In 2016 "Moonlight" won best picture and "Hidden Figures" was the 14th highest grossing film of the year, but popular Hollywood films remained as white and male-dominated as ever.

A new report from the Media, Diversity, & Social Change Initiative at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, provided first to The Associated Press, finds that the representation of women, minorities, LGBT people, disabled characters in films remains largely unchanged from the previous year, despite the heightened and attention to diversity in Hollywood. At the bottom of the rung and most egregiously disproportionate to their U.S. demographics are women, Hispanics and disabled characters. Exclusion, the report says, is the norm in Hollywood, not the exception.

For nine years since 2007, USC has analyzed the demographic makeup of every speaking or named character from each year's 100 highest-grossing films at the domestic box office (with the exception of 2011), as well as behind-the-camera employment for those films including directors, producers and composers.

"Every year we're hopeful that we will actually see change," Stacy L. Smith, a USC professor and the study's lead author, told The Associated Press. "Unfortunately that hope has not quite been realized."

Women remain vastly underrepresented when it comes to both speaking roles and lead or co-leading parts in films. Of the 4,583 speaking characters analyzed from the top 100 films of 2016, 31.4 percent were female, a number that is basically unchanged since 2007. Also, only 34 of the films depicted a female lead or co-lead—and only three of those were from underrepresented groups.

"We see a real stalling out," Smith said.

In terms of race and ethnicity, the landscape remains largely white, with Hispanics grossly underrepresented compared to the breakdown of the U.S. population. Of the speaking characters surveyed: 70.8 percent were white; 13.6 percent black; 5.7 percent Asian; 3.1 percent Hispanic; and less than 1 percent American Indian, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian. According to the latest U.S. Census, the nation is 61.3 percent white, 17.8 percent Hispanic, 5.7 percent Asian, 13.3 percent black, 1.3 percent American Indian and Alaska Native and 0.2 percent Native Hawaiian.

Smith

More striking still is the film by film "invisibility" breakdown, which finds that 25 of the 100 films did not feature a single black character in a speaking role; 54 films had no Hispanic characters (14 higher than in 2015); 44 had no Asian characters (a rare improvement from 2015 which tallied 49 films with zero Asians).

For women of color, it's a bleaker story.

"We can't just talk about females in film anymore. What our data shows most powerfully this year over any other year is the real epidemic of intersectional invisibility in film," Smith said. "If you cross gender with race and ethnicity, you see that the bottom really drops out for females of color on screen."

The data speaks volumes: 47 films featured no black females; 66 had no Asian females; and 72 had no Hispanic females.

Also largely invisible are LGBT females, who were excluded from 91 of the top 100 films of 2016. There was a notable increase in films with gay speaking characters in 2016—36 up from 19, but zero transgender characters. Most of those—79.1 percent—were white and 76 of the 100 films had no LGBT characters. Only one, "Mooonlight," featured a gay protagonist.

The study also examined characters with disabilities—its second year doing so—and found that despite nearly 18.7 percent of the U.S. population identifying as disabled only 2.7 percent of all speaking characters were depicted as disabled.

Behind the camera, things continue to be dismal for female directors—in 2016 there were only 5 female directors out of 120 (including co-directors) and none were black.

Every year there are indicators of change, however, including this year with the successes of "Wonder Woman," ''Get Out" and "Girls Trip" among others, and more on the horizon. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has also recently made strides to diversify its membership.

"The question is with all of these high-profile examples, will the memo to Hollywood be read seriously and will they actually start engaging in more inclusionary hiring practices," Smith said.

USC has a number of recommendations for changes—including adding five female speaking parts to each top film (which would result in gender equity in just three years) and encouraging A-listers to implement equity clauses into their contracts. The organization is also available to studios and content creators looking for advice, understanding or even lists of working female directors to consider.

"Diversity is not just something that just happens," said Katherine Pieper, a research scientist on the report. "It's something you have to think about and aim for as an objective and achieve."

Sam Hunt makes chart history with 'Body Like a Back Road'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country star Sam Hunt has overtaken Florida Georgia Line for holding the record number of weeks atop Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart with his single "Body Like a Back Road."

And there are no signs of slowing down.

Record label MCA Nashville said Monday that Hunt's single has hit 25 consecutive weeks at the top of the chart, which measures radio play, sales and streaming, and edged out "Cruise," which reigned for 24 weeks in 2012 and 2013.

The song, already certified multiplatinum, crossed over to the pop charts as well and jumped into the top 10 of the Hot 100 all-genre chart. Hunt, whose debut album "Montevallo" came out in 2014, wrote the song with Zach Crowell, Shane McAnally and Josh Osborne.

The inspiration for the snappy and infectiously melodic song came from Hunt's wife, Hannah, McAnally said.

"It was a playful ode to her," McAnally said. "He had written a lot of serious stuff about the tumultuous part of their relationship and I think he just wanted to say that they were in a good place."

Florida Georgia Line's "Cruise" benefited from having a remix released with rapper Nelly that helped it further crossover to new audiences. But McAnally thinks "Back Road" has dominated this summer because Hunt has taken his time in releasing new music.

It's the stand-alone single for Hunt this year, with no announced date of when his sophomore album may drop.

"It raced up the charts so fast that had he put another song out, it may not have seen this growth," McAnally said.

Other top singles in the history of the Hot Country Songs chart include "Walk On By," a song by Leroy Van Dyke, which hit No. 1 in 1961 and stayed there for 19 weeks, according to Billboard. Florida Georgia Line scored another big hit with last year's "H.O.L.Y.," which topped the chart for 18 weeks.

McAnally said he can pinpoint the moment he knew Hunt had the "song of the summer."

"This summer a boat went by me many times playing 'Body Like a Back Road,' so I feel like that is the indicator," McAnally said.

James Bond returns in 2019

By NARDINE SAAD
LOS ANGELES TIMES

James Bond will officially make his sleek return to the big screen in 2019.

Bond 25, the as-yet untitled 25th film in the long-running 007 franchise, will debut in the U.S. on Nov. 8, 2019, EON Productions and MGM said in a joint statement on Monday.

» Still no official word on Bond 25 title or Daniel Craig

The U.S. release follows the traditionally earlier release of the film in the U.K. and abroad.

Neal Purvis and Robert Wade, who penned scripts for "Casino Royale," "Quantum of Solace," "Skyfall" and "Spectre," return as writers for the upcoming project, which will be produced by EON's Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli.

The studios remained mum about Daniel Craig's involvement in the wake of reports that the "Spectre" star would indeed reprise his role as the British secret agent. Craig infamously said that he would "rather slash (his) wrists" than return to the part; however, the U.K.'s Mirror reported earlier this month that Craig decided to stay on for Bond 25 after hearing of the wealth of British talent eyed to replace him.

Daniel Craig attends annual awards ceremony celebrating young filmmakers in the UK, held at the Odeon Leicester Square, London, UK, on March 14, 2017.

STILLWELL JOHN/PA PHOTOS/ABACA PRESS/TNS

This would be the actor's fifth Bond flick since the 2006 installment, "Casino Royale." He's the sixth actor to play Ian Fleming's spy since the first Bond film, "Dr. No," debuted in 1962.

The studios said that details on distribution and the film's cast and director will be announced at a later date.

Heroic war rescue gets its due

By EMILY MAE CZACHOR
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Be honest: Before last week, what did you know about Dunkirk?

Beyond that it's the title of a new wartime epic by "that director who made those really good Batman movies," you probably didn't know too much about the historical event.

That's because the 350,000-person evacuation of a sleepy French village during World War II (also known as Operation Dynamo) has largely taken a backseat in America to the more storied events of the era: D-Day, Pearl Harbor, the atom bomb.

But now, thanks to Christopher Nolan's acclaimed new film "Dunkirk," you'd be hard-pressed to find anyone who doesn't know the name.

Judging from the initial box-office haul, "Dunkirk" is now known the world over. One week into its theatrical run, "Dunkirk" had already banked a lofty $50.5 million in the U.S. alone.

And Nolan is not the only person who wants to talk about the bomb-raked shores of Dunkirk in May and June 1940.

In April, Danish director Lone Scherfig's dramedy "Their Finest" was released in the U.S. The film chronicles a British filmmaking team's endeavor to put together a "morale-boosting" film about Britain's role in the evacuation.

Timed almost perfectly with the release of Nolan's "Dunkirk," publishers are rolling out books left and right that further elucidate Dunkirk's legacy.

Historian Joshua Levine's "Dunkirk: The History Behind the Major Motion Picture" is already a New York Times bestseller.

Dunkirk's unexpected emergence in pop culture is something of a double victory: a coup for Nolan's film but also for Dunkirk and the history buried within it.

Scott Kelly binged 'Game of Thrones' during year in space

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Retired astronaut Scott Kelly spent one year in space on the International Space Station, but his thoughts were often with Westeros.

Kelly says that while he was away, he saved "Game of Thrones" to watch and "it was so good, I binged it twice."

He also watched a lot of CNN.

Kelly spoke Monday during a panel at the Television Critics Association's annual summer event. He was promoting the upcoming PBS documentary "Beyond a Year in Space."

"Beyond a Year in Space" picks up where the first film, "A Year in Space" ended. It follows Scott Kelly's last day in space and return to Earth. It will also introduce viewers to the next generation of astronauts preparing to go to space. It premieres Nov. 15, 2017.

AP

Astronaut Scott Kelly participates in the "Beyond a Year in Space" panel during the PBS Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour at the Beverly Hilton on Monday, July 31, 2017, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Jenna Coleman: Casting a female 'Doctor Who' is 'genius'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Jenna Coleman, a former "Doctor Who" companion, says casting a female as the lead of the long-running sci-fi series is "genius."

"Oh, I love it," the actress said Monday during a Television Critics Association panel about her PBS "Masterpiece" drama series, "Victoria."

Earlier this month, Jodie Whittaker was announced as the 13th official incarnation of the galaxy-hopping Time Lord who travels in a time machine shaped like an old-fashioned British police telephone booth.

Coleman added that she thinks Whittaker is "brilliant and lovely" and she can't wait to hear Whittaker's voice as the character.

"It's very exciting times," she said.

On the BBC's "Doctor Who," the main character can regenerate into new bodies, allowing for endless recasting possibilities.

Coleman played a "Doctor Who" companion from 2012 to 2015.

Carol Burnett to ask kids to solve adult problems on Netflix

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Carol Burnett is counting on the honesty of children to bring laughs to a new Netflix series.

The comedian will debut a half-hour unscripted comedy called "A Little Help with Carol Burnett" in 2018. In each episode, both celebrities and everyday people appeal to a panel of kids ranging in ages from 4 to 8 for advice about their problems.

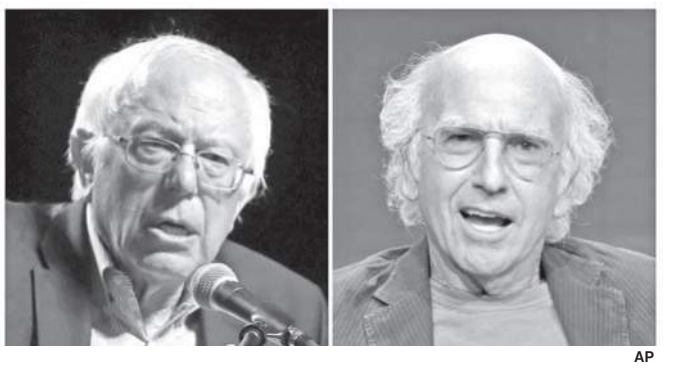
The show will be taped in front of a live audience.

Burnett is the latest of a host of comedians who've signed up with Netflix. Chelsea Handler has a talk show on the streaming site. It also features stand-up specials from comics including Tracy Morgan and Sarah Silverman. Ellen DeGeneres recently announced she will tape her first comedy special in 15 years for the site.

AP

In this June 29, 2016, file photo, actress, comedian Carol Burnett speaks at the Cancer Moonshot Summit at Howard University in Washington before introducing Vice President Joe Biden.

Bernie Sanders and Larry David share some 'identical DNA'



AP

In this combination photo, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., left, and speaks at a rally on April 20, 2017, in Omaha, Neb., and actor-producer Larry David appears at the "Curb Your Enthusiasm" panel during the HBO Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour in Beverly Hills, Calif.

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Henry Louis Gates Jr., the host of "Finding Your Roots" on PBS, says the show "couldn't have scripted" the discovery that actor, comedian Larry David and Senator Bernie Sanders are related.

An episode where the two learn they're distant relatives will air on the show's upcoming fourth season, premiering Oct. 3.

David has impersonated Sanders on "Saturday Night Live."

Gates spoke about the discovery Monday during a panel about his show as part of the Television Critics Association's annual summer press gathering.

He said Sanders and David share "identical DNA" of three chromosomes and "that's a lot of matches."

Last week, David told TV critics that Sanders is a "third cousin or something" while promoting the return of "Curb Your Enthusiasm" to HBO.

Wife decries kissing cousin's return to family gatherings

DEAR ABBY: When my husband and I were dating, he told me that he'd had a consensual sexual relationship with his cousin, "Irma." He said they were in their early 20s and very immature. They parted ways because they both knew it was wrong, and Irma moved to another state. He told me so one day I wouldn't be blindsided should we ever be married.

Well, we got married, and this cousin has kept her distance until recently. Irma has now started to attend their family events. We live too far away to go, but I dread the day when we do and she's there. Should I act like I don't know what went on before I was in the picture? Nobody in his family knows this ever happened between them.

I have told my husband it makes me very uncomfortable and that it almost seems she attends hoping to run into him. Why else would she? I would be very ashamed of having done this and would continue to keep my distance.

My husband says I have nothing to worry about because Irma means nothing to him. What do I do if I run into this woman at one of these family gatherings?

NOT HAPPY IN THE USA

DEAR NOT HAPPY: I know it may be uncomfortable, but when your paths finally cross, be polite. You don't have to do anything but exchange the basic social amenities, and spend your time socializing with the other relatives.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a middle-aged, single woman. My 76-year-old father lives with me. We get along well and the arrangement works fine, except for one problem. He never washes his hands after going to the bathroom. To make matters worse, he does most of the cooking, and he often goes right from the bathroom straight into the kitchen.

I know that if I comment on his lack of hygiene, he will get angry and defensive. How do I get him to be sanitary at his age?

HUNGRY NO MORE

DEAR HUNGRY NO MORE: I don't blame you for having lost your appetite. After reading your letter, mine is gone, too.

You say your father lives with you and not the reverse. In your home, you get to make the rules. If this makes your father "defensive and angry," so be it.

There's a reason employees of restaurants are required to wash their hands after using the bathroom. It's to prevent the spread of disease. It may mean watching your father like a hawk, but you will have to enforce this. And if at all possible, do the cooking yourself.

DEAR ABBY: I like this girl "Jayne" who I work with that I wouldn't mind dating. Problem is, her mother also works there and has sent out signals that she "likes" me, too. So how do I get Jayne without breaking her mother's heart or creating waves at work for me?

TROUBLE IN ALBANY, N.Y.

DEAR TROUBLE: Workplace romances are strongly discouraged because if they end—and most do—it could be a recipe for disaster. Your situation sounds like DOUBLE-trouble. If I were you, I'd find a job where there is less electricity in the air.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

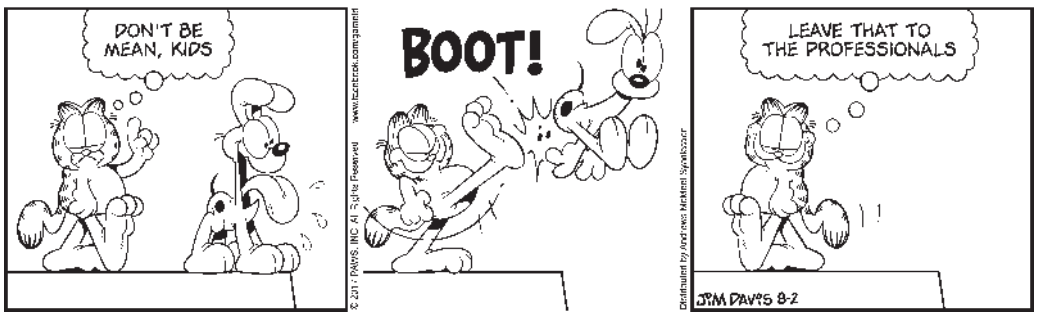
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I THINK A BEE LANDED ON MY BACK! CAN YOU SEE IT? I DON'T WANT TO MOVE!
THAT'S NOT A BEE.
IT ISN'T? *WHEW*
NO, THAT'S A HORNET IF I EVER SAW ONE!
OW!

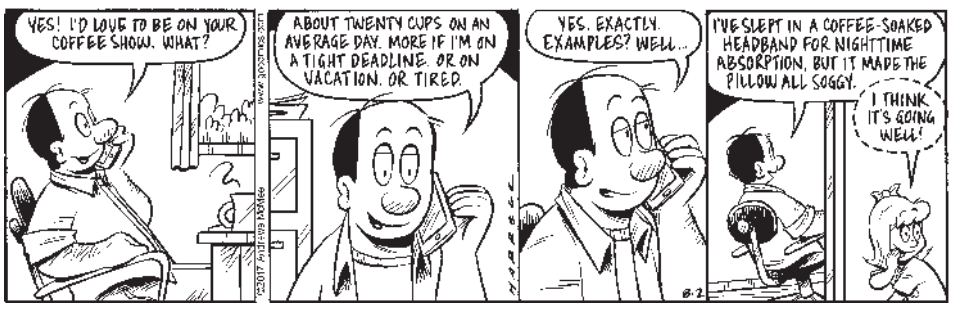
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



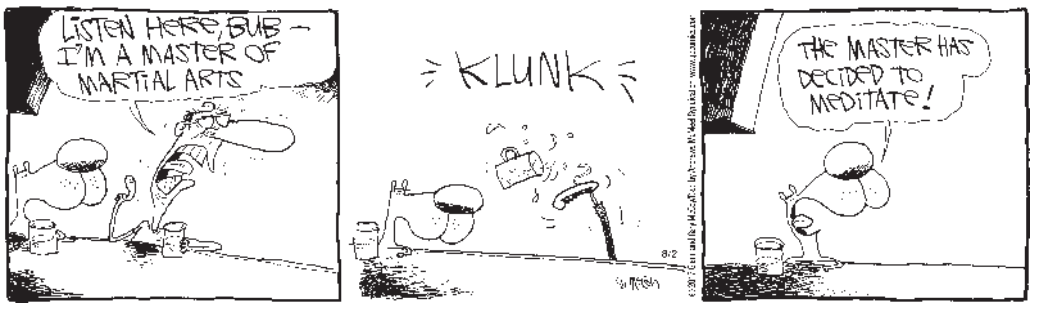
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YES! I'D LOVE TO BE ON YOUR COFFEE SHOW. WHAT?
ABOUT TWENTY CUPS ON AN AVERAGE DAY. MORE IF I'M ON A TIGHT DEADLINE. OR ON VACATION. OR TIRED.
YES. EXACTLY. EXAMPLES? WELL...
I'VE SLEPT IN A COFFEE-SOAKED HEADBAND FOR NIGHTTIME ABSORPTION, BUT IT MADE THE PILLOW ALL SOGGY.
I THINK IT'S GOING WELL!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pasta sauce brand
5 Steal from
8 Egg on
12 "This — outrage!"
13 Actress Longoria
14 Employ
15 Looks after
17 "Young Frankenstein" role
18 Media mogul Winfrey
19 Tel Aviv's land
21 Belgrade resident
24 Canine cry
25 "Heavens!"
28 Exam format
30 Halloween mo.
33 "The Bells" author
34 Love, Italian-style
35 Kanga's kid
36 Youngster
37 Espy
38 Hot
39 Play part
41 Bump into
43 Actress Loren
46 "Unhand me!"
50 Repeat
51 Jim Bouton book
54 Thunder god
55 Family card game
56 Speeding penalty
57 Achy
58 Stick with a kick
59 Sorts

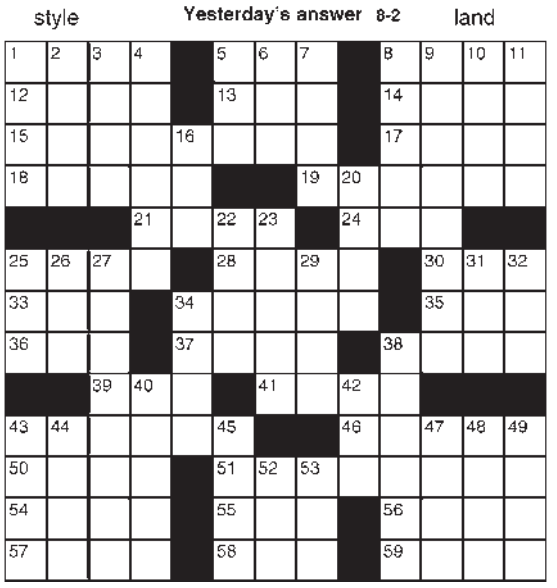
DOWN

1 Puerto —
2 Now, on a memo
3 Teri of "Tootsie"
4 Anxious
5 Game official
6 Egg (Pref.)
7 Adriatic port
8 Bake eggs
9 Gilbert & Sullivan's ship
10 Incite
11 Authentic
16 That lady
20 Auction
22 Cavort
23 Witch craft?
25 Choose
26 "Yoo- —!"
27 Figure of speech
29 Jocular Johnson
31 "Friends" cast member
32 Plaything
34 Wine region
38 Tennis star Graf
40 Task
42 Right angle
43 Collections
44 Twice cuatro
45 Border on
47 Work hard
48 Sticky stuff
49 Raw materials
52 Raggedy doll
53 Parcel of land

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	I	U	B	■	C	H	O	■	C	L	A	P
S	A	R	A	■	R	E	L	■	O	I	L	Y
W	I	N	D	W	A	R	D	■	P	A	■	R
■	■	■	G	A	G	■	W	E	I	R	D	O
F	A	T	E	D	■	B	O	D	E	■	■	■
L	E	A	H	■	W	A	H	■	R	O	B	E
A	R	C	■	T	E	S	L	A	■	B	O	X
W	O	O	D	W	A	R	D	■	W	I	S	P
■	■	■	R	A	R	A	■	F	A	T	S	O
M	A	R	I	S	A	■	P	A	I	■	■	■
A	S	O	F	■	W	A	R	D	R	O	O	M
S	T	A	T	■	A	R	I	■	J	R	D	U
T	A	M	S	■	Y	A	M	■	S	E	E	M

Yesterday's answer 8-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hallie Eisenberg, 25; Sam Worthington, 41; Kevin Smith, 47; Mary-Louise Parker, 53.

Happy Birthday: Look at your situation, consider your options and make your move. Getting things done will be easy once you get started. This is a year of development and change, best treated with high energy, optimism and the willingness to face any challenges passionately. Don't say no or let negative individuals hold you back or slow you down. Your numbers are 2, 8, 18, 24, 32, 36, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Travel plans, signing up for a course or making personal changes that will encourage you to grow mentally, spiritually and emotionally are favored. Engage in talks with someone who can make a difference to your life. An unexpected offer is worth considering. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Stubbornness will lead to a blowout. Channel your energy into physical challenges that encourage you to stay fit and look your best. Opt to use intellect over brawn when it comes to relationships and personal discussions. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Put everything you've got into reaching whatever destination you set. Living up to your expectations will give you the push and the confidence you need to reach your goal and claim victory. Appraise your current situation honestly. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Getting emotional about your professional dealings will cause problems. You can be creative, inventive and unique, but not manipulative or pushy. Concentrate on self-improvement and growth, not trying to change those around you. Partnerships need to be monitored carefully. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Get in the game. If you don't take action and speak up, you can't complain about what doesn't get done. Don't be fooled by someone asking for help or support. Invest in yourself and the projects you want to pursue. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep moving forward and don't look back. Put the past behind you and plan your future based on knowledge, experience and desire. Stop investing in others and start putting more time and effort into reaching your goals. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Discuss your concerns openly. Show compassion when dealing with friends, siblings and peers. How you conduct your personal and professional affairs will determine how much you receive in return. Equality will be essential if you want your relationships to be successful. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Emotions will surface if you let the past come back to haunt you. Face facts and don't let old habits resurface. Use your intelligence and intuition to avoid people who are a bad influence. Concentrate on your health, wealth and happiness. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): If you have something to say, spit it out. Be clear about what you want to see happen. Be willing to face complaints and criticism with valor as well as diplomacy, and you'll show everyone what a good leader you can be. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Hidden matters can be expected. Don't make a decision if you think someone is withholding information. Too much of anything will lead to disappointment. Express your concerns and play it safe when it comes to joint ventures. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Think big, but don't take on more than you can handle. Being free to take advantage of whatever opportunity comes your way will prove to be fruitful. Gauge your time and be prepared to enjoy each moment. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Saying too little or too much will work against you. Don't make unrealistic promises or insinuate something that may not be true. Maintain honesty and integrity and aim for personal growth and a stable home environment. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are playful, adventurous and resilient. You are free-spirited and expressive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5				4		
4			1		8			7
	3		5	4	2		6	
		7				9		
3		1				7		6
	4	6				2	1	
		2				3		
	6		9	5	3		7	
	7						4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	5	3	9	2	6	4	1	7
2	4	6	8	7	1	3	9	5
9	1	7	4	3	5	8	6	2
3	2	1	6	9	8	5	7	4
6	8	9	7	5	4	2	3	1
4	7	5	3	1	2	6	8	9
1	6	2	5	8	7	9	4	3
5	9	8	1	4	3	7	2	6
7	3	4	2	6	9	1	5	8

Difficulty level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ADMIRING CHURCH FRIEZES Solution: 13 letters

C	M	S	A	S	E	P	O	T	E	M	A	S	R	E
A	O	T	B	R	O	A	D	C	W	A	L	L	C	N
L	L	N	S	A	S	P	I	R	I	T	U	A	L	T
L	D	I	T	N	R	N	D	O	R	I	C	M	E	A
I	I	A	R	E	R	O	A	L	T	A	R	I	T	B
G	N	S	A	O	M	E	Q	S	H	G	O	N	T	L
R	G	H	C	R	I	P	T	U	O	T	M	A	E	A
A	S	A	T	E	C	O	O	T	E	L	A	T	R	T
P	C	L	S	T	N	H	H	R	A	R	N	I	I	U
H	W	O	M	E	N	I	I	C	A	P	A	V	N	R
I	O	N	I	C	C	C	I	T	I	R	C	I	G	E
C	K	N	I	G	H	T	S	U	R	R	Y	T	L	N
A	N	G	E	L	S	D	E	V	R	A	C	Y	A	E
L	S	H	P	Y	L	G	I	R	T	E	V	A	C	C
E	L	P	M	E	T	G	N	I	H	C	A	E	T	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Long Maize

Treasuries 13 through 28 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-HSEM-189

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 28, 2017 **TIME: 11:00 A.M.**

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/S/ GERALD J. DELEON GUERRERO
SPECIAL ASISTANT FOR HSEM

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17-CHCC/PHARMACY-20

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: August 3, 2017 **TIME: 1:00PM**
BID OPENING DATE: August 3, 2017 **TIME: 1:30 PM**

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY

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/S/ HON. ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
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/S/ YVETTE R. SABLAN
SPECIAL ASISTANT FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND REHABILITATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
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Gonzalez loses no-hit bid in 9th, Nationals beat Marlins, 1-0

MIAMI (AP)—Gio Gonzalez took the mound Monday filled with emotion while thinking of his extremely pregnant wife and his late friend Jose Fernandez.

Soon he was thinking about a no-hitter, too.

The Washington Nationals left-hander held the Miami Marlins hitless until the ninth inning, when Dee Gordon led off with a clean single, and Sean Doolittle got the final three outs for a 1-0 victory.

Gonzalez's wife is back in Washington and expected to deliver their second child at any time. To compound his emotions, before the game he met Fernandez's family, visiting Marlins Park for the first time since the late ace—an offseason fishing buddy of Gonzalez's—died in a boat crash last September.

Monday would have been Fernandez's 25th birthday.

"It was a heavy dose of a lot of emotion today," said Gonzalez, a native of nearby Hialeah. "I tried to calm it down. I didn't want to think about it too much."

Gonzalez (9-5) succeeded, delivering one of the best performances of his 10-year career. He walked three, hit a batter, struck out five and retired 14 in a row during one stretch.

Gonzalez warmed up before the game using a ball bearing Fernandez's number and initials. But once he took the mound, his emotions didn't show.

"He was really focused and very calm—the best I've seen him," manager Dusty Baker said.

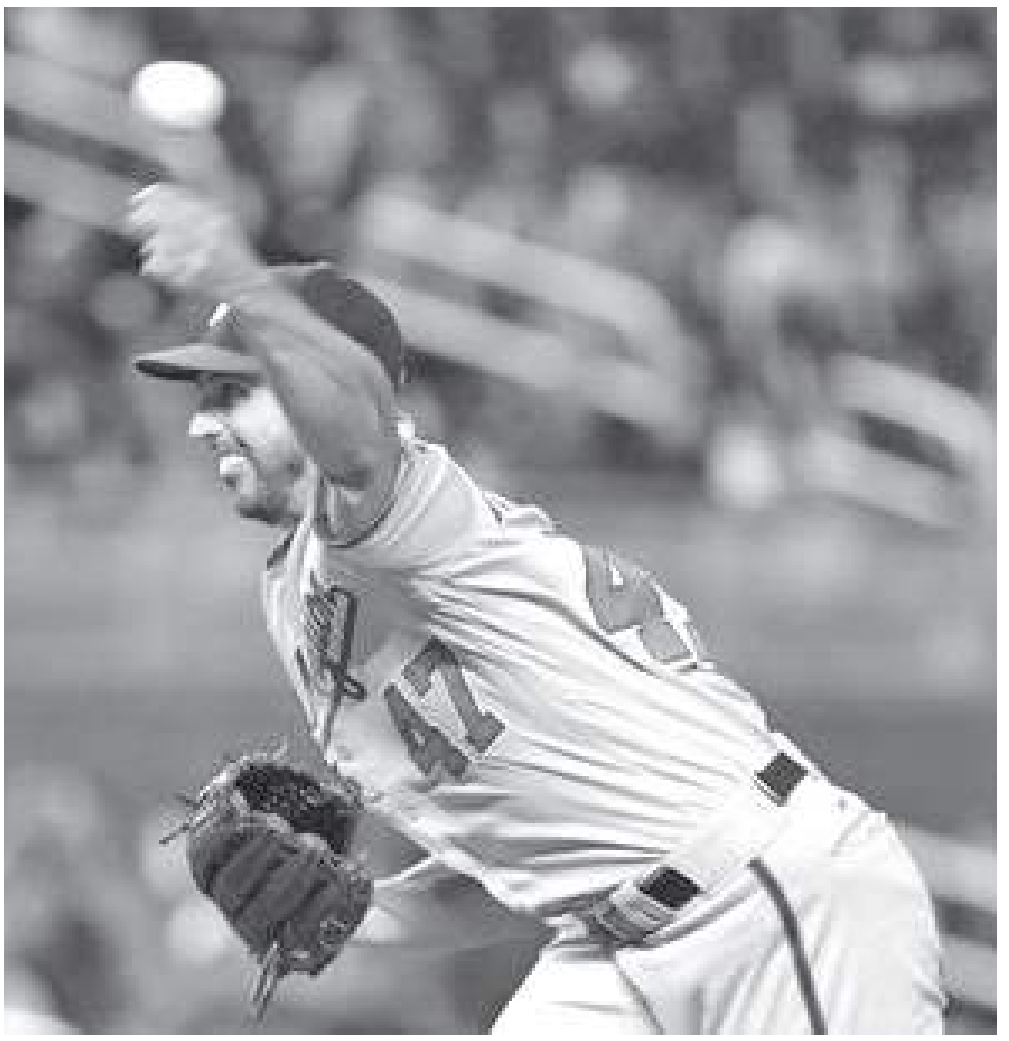
But he tired in the ninth. Gordon singled by sending a soft liner the opposite way to left-center field on a 1-1 pitch, the 106th pitch Gonzalez threw.

The weary lefty's attention immediately turned to Doolittle warming up.

"It was like, 'All right, I'm exhausted, let's go get the man and close this game out. I want to go home now,'" Gonzalez said. "If it would have happened, it would have been beautiful. It didn't happen, but we got the win. That's the most important thing."

Mindful of Fernandez's family, Gonzalez waved his glove toward the Marlins' dugout as he walked off the mound, and he received a standing ovation from the crowd of 18,962.

Doolittle got NL home run leader Giancarlo Stanton to ground into a double play. After Christian Yelich beat out an infield single, Marcell Ozuna popped out, giving Doolittle his fourth save since being acquired from Oakland on July 16.



AP
Washington Nationals starting pitcher Gio Gonzalez (47) delivers a pitch during the first inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Monday, July 31, 2017, in Miami.

Gonzalez quickly heard from his wife.

"She texted me saying, 'You almost put me in labor today,'" he said. He's on standby to fly back to Washington and said he would have abandoned his no-hit bid if he had received word she was about to deliver.

The game was the Nationals' first at Marlins Park since ace Max Scherzer took a no-hitter into the eighth but lost on June 21. There has been only one no-hitter in the majors this year - Miami's Edinson Volquez threw it at Marlins Park against Arizona.

Jose Urena (9-5) matched zeros with Gonzalez until the sixth, when Bryce Harper's RBI single put the Nationals ahead. Urena allowed just three hits in eight innings.

The closest Miami came to a hit before the ninth came when shortstop Wilmer Difo made a diving backhanded grab of Miguel Rojas' soft line drive in the sixth.

Gonzalez made the Marlins look bad at times. To end the sixth he struck out Gordon, who badly missed a breaking pitch while throwing his bat at the ball. Gonzalez scooped up the bat with his glove and handed it back to Gordon as he walked to the dugout.

"I'm just happy he didn't no-hit us," Gordon said.

Marlins manager Don Mattingly wasn't pleased with his team's approach against Gonzalez.

"It was like we were afraid to get a strike on us," Mattingly said. "Quite honestly I thought we did an awful job with him as far as making him pitch. I'm not going to take anything away from him, but we did a really bad job of making him actually throw enough strikes and fighting him off. Just too many easy outs."

Yankees 7, Tigers 3

In New York, Aaron Judge broke out of a slump with his 34th home run, regaining sole possession of the major league lead, and Chase Headley sparked New York past Detroit.

Luis Severino beat Michael Fulmer in a matchup of young All-Stars on the mound, though neither was at his best. Hours after acquiring Sonny Gray from Oakland at the trade deadline, Headley put the AL East leaders ahead to stay with a two-run double in a four-run fourth inning.

Todd Frazier followed with a two-run single, and Judge hit a solo shot in the fifth. Headley finished with three hits as New York won for the ninth time in 11 games.

Severino (8-4) needed a career-high 116 pitches to get through five innings.

Aroldis Chapman entered with the bases loaded in the ninth and got two outs for his 13th save.

Fulmer (10-9) gave up seven runs and seven hits over six-plus innings.

Orioles 2, Royals 1

In Baltimore, Craig Gentry singled home the winning run with two outs in the ninth inning, and Baltimore cooled off surging Kansas City.

Manny Machado had two hits and scored a run for the Orioles, who have won three straight.

Caleb Joseph got Baltimore going in the ninth with a one-out single off Joakim Soria (4-3). Ruben Tejada singled with two outs before Gentry hit a grounder up the middle that sent Joseph home from second base without a throw.

It was the second loss in 12 games for the Royals, who managed only five hits off three Baltimore pitchers.

Zach Britton (1-0) — the subject of many rumors before the non-waiver trade deadline ended on Monday afternoon — worked the ninth for the Orioles.

Red Sox 6, Indians 2

In Boston, Doug Fister took a shutout into the eighth inning and rookie Rafael Devers went 4 for 4 with an RBI to lead Boston.

Mookie Betts stopped his mini-slump by driving in three runs with two singles, and Eduardo Nunez added three hits and two RBIs for the Red Sox, who won for the third time in nine games.

Bradley Zimmer hit a two-run homer for AL Central-leading Cleveland, which lost its second straight after a season-high nine-game winning streak.

Fister (1-5), claimed off waivers from the Los Angeles Angels on June 23, was pulled after giving up Zimmer's homer with two outs in the eighth. He allowed two runs and five hits, walking two and striking out five.

Brandon Workman got the final four outs.

Mike Clevinger (5-4) gave up five runs on seven hits in three innings.

Phillies 7, Braves 6

In Philadelphia, Odubel Herrera and Maikel Franco hit homers, Nick Pivetta threw six sharp innings and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Atlanta Braves 7-6 on Monday afternoon to complete a four-game sweep.

Pivetta (4-6) gave up one run and three hits, striking out five.

Kurt Suzuki and Freddie Freeman went deep for Atlanta. Braves starter Mike Foltynewicz (9-6) allowed five runs and seven hits in four innings.

The Phillies have won five in a row and are 10-6 since the All-Star break, but still own the worst record (39-64) in the majors.

Mariners 6, Rangers 4

In Arlington, Texas, Robinson Cano had a two-run single in the ninth and Seattle won at Texas hours after the Rangers traded pitcher Yu Darvish.

The Mariners trailed 4-0 after two innings before getting even against Cole Hamels, the remaining ace for Texas now that Darvish is with the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers.

Cano lined a ball over the head of right fielder Shin-Soo Choo, getting two runs home before he was thrown out trying to stretch the hit into a double. The hit came right after pitching coach Doug Brocail was ejected for arguing a balk called against Alex Claudio (2-1) that put runners at second and third.

David Phelps (1-1) struck out five in 1 2/3 innings before Edwin Diaz pitched a perfect ninth for his 20th save.

Rougned Odor and Carlos Gomez homered for the Rangers, who had five hits in the first two innings against Felix Hernandez and then one the rest of the game. They struck out 13 times against four pitchers.

White Sox 7, Blue Jays 6

In Chicago, Matt Davidson singled in Leury Garcia with two outs in the ninth inning for his second game-ending hit in two days, and Chicago rallied to beat Toronto after losing top prospect Yoan Moncada to a right knee injury.

Adam Engel sparked the winning rally with a one-out single against Roberto Osuna (3-2). Garcia then was hit by a pitch, putting runners on first and second.

After Tyler Saladino struck out swinging, Jose Abreu tied it at 6 with a single to right. Davidson followed with another base hit, and then was mobbed by his teammates as he ran around the infield.

The White Sox trailed 6-1 before they scored four times in the eighth, capped by consecutive homers for Davidson and Yolmer Sanchez. Davidson also hit a game-ending, two-run homer in Sunday's 3-1 victory over Cleveland.

Astros 14, Rays 7

In Houston, Jake Marisnick homered twice among his three hits and had a career-high five RBIs to help Houston coast past Tampa Bay.

The Rays cut the lead to one after a two-run homer by Corey Dickerson in the third inning before an RBI single by Tyler White made it 4-2 with two outs in the bottom of the inning.

Marisnick's first shot — a three-run homer which bounced off the wall above the seats in left field — came next to push the lead to 7-2.

Two pitches later Derek Fisher, who finished a triple shy of the cycle, connected off Alex Cobb (9-7) on a home run to right field to make it 8-2.

Houston starter Charlie Morton (9-4) allowed a season-low two hits with two runs in six innings for his fourth win in five starts.

Dickerson added a solo shot in the eighth for his seventh career multihomer game.

Athletics 8, Giants 5

In Oakland, California, Marcus Semien hit a grand slam off reliever George Kontos in the sixth inning, and Oakland held on for the win hours after trading ace Sonny Gray.

Jed Lowrie had three hits and an RBI, Ryon Healy added a two-run single and Matt Joyce reached base four times and scored twice for Oakland.

Bruce Maxwell drew a leadoff walk from Josh Osich (3-2) to begin the sixth. Pinch-hitter Rajai Davis followed with a one-out single before Osich walked Joyce to load the bases. Kontos replaced Osich to face Semien, who powered a 1-1 pitch over the wall in left-center for his second career grand slam.

Paul Blackburn (2-1), making the start after Gray was dealt to the New York Yankees, allowed five runs over five innings. Blake Treinen retired three batters for his first save in the AL this season.

Buster Posey and Brandon Belt had two hits apiece for the Giants.

Darvish, Gray dealt on busy trade deadline day

By BEN WALKER
AP BASEBALL WRITER

Yu Darvish and Sonny Gray headed a parade of prized arms on the move Monday, leaving little doubt on trade deadline day: Top teams made a big pitch for the playoffs.

All-Star Brandon Kintzler, Addison Reed and Justin Wilson were among the many relievers swapped before the cutoff. There were 14 deals involving major leaguers—all six division leaders got someone new.

"We're trying to go from good to great," New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.

The Yankees bolstered their rotation by getting Gray from Oakland for three minor leaguers. That swap came a day after the AL East leaders acquired starter Jaime Garcia from Minnesota.

The Los Angeles Dodgers, owners of the best record in the majors and the top payroll, gave up three minor leaguers for Darvish. The Texas ace will join three-time Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw, currently on the disabled list, as the Dodgers try to reach the World Series for the first time since their 1988 title.

"We're not going to be lining up our playoff rotation quite yet," general manager Farhan Zaidi said.

Los Angeles also added relievers Tony Watson from Pittsburgh and Tony Cingrani from Cincinnati.

A few stars mentioned in trade speculation stayed put—Orioles closer Zach Britton, Detroit starter Justin Verlander and San Diego reliever Brad Hand, among them.

"We just didn't line up at this time," Padres GM A.J. Preller said, adding there was "no rush" to make a move right now.

Teams had until 4 p.m. EDT to make trades without waivers. For the rest of the season, players can be dealt only if every other club passes on a chance to claim them.

A year after the champion Chicago Cubs and Cleveland used deep bullpens to reach the World Series, several teams boosted their relief corps. As did the Cubs and Indians.

Chicago got Wilson, a valuable lefty, along with backup catcher Alex Avila from Detroit. Avila was traded away by his dad, Tigers general manager Al Avila.

"Obviously you think, well, he's your son so you probably feel even worse. Not really. Nobody likes to go through trades," the Detroit GM said.

"Actually, the person that's going to be really worse off, it's not so much my wife, it's my mom—Alex's grandmother. She's the one that might be the most angry," he said.

Joe Smith, who relieved for Cleveland from 2009-13, was sent from Toronto to the Indians.

"A lot of fans of Smitty in this organization, so getting him back will be a lot of fun," Cleveland manager Terry Francona said.

AP
Texas Rangers general manager Jon Daniels responds to a question during a news conference about the trade of pitcher Yu Darvish before a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners on Monday, July 31, 2017, in Arlington, Texas.

NL East-leading Washington got Kintzler from Minnesota—the Nationals recently acquired relievers Ryan Madson and Sean Doolittle from Oakland.

The Houston Astros, already running away with the AL West, plucked lefty Francisco Liriano from Toronto. He'll help patch a rotation that's deal with injuries to Dallas Keuchel, Lance McCullers and Collin McHugh this year.

The contending Boston Red Sox added Reed, who had been serving as the New York Mets' closer. Reed is 1-2 with a 2.57 ERA and 19 saves in 21 chances, and he joins a bullpen that includes dominant closer Craig Kimbrel.

Like a lot of other executives, Red Sox president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski was on the prowl for pitching.

"We liked a lot of the guys. We were inquiring about a lot of the guys," he said at Fenway Park, adding, "My list is long."

How long?

Dombrowski reached into the left pocket of his suit jacket and pulled out an 8x11-inch piece of paper. He then counted—by ones—"20 right-handed relievers that were on our list at one time or another, and a lot of lefties, too."

Tampa's Archer and Astros mascot make prank battle official

HOUSTON (AP)—Tampa Bay ace Chris Archer and Houston Astros mascot Orbit have never been friends.

But on Monday they took their distaste for each other to another level when Archer presented the furry green alien with a "declaration of unfriendliness" before Tampa's game against the Astros.

The official-sounding declaration read in part: "general mischief and rascality have been among Orbit's repeated trespasses. Chris Archer is hereby resolved to carry on a campaign of pranks, gags and high jinx in retaliation which include but are not limited to use of objects such as water balloons, whipped pies, silly string, small motorized vehicles, bubblegum, hand-crafted signage and any of the considerable resources of a Major League clubhouse."

Orbit did not take kindly to being presented with the declaration. After perusing it, he threw his cap off and began poking Archer in the chest and gesturing wildly. Soon, Archer's teammate Steven Souza Jr. stepped in between the two to end the faux fight.

It was at that point that Orbit took the declaration and wadded it into a ball and threw it at the pitcher. Souza then gestured to Orbit as an umpire would to an ejected player that he was out of there. Archer collected his declaration and stalked away from his confrontation with the rotund mascot.

But the tomfoolery wasn't over yet.

Soon after the Astros tweeted a video of the confrontation with the title "this could get ugly," the Rays took to their star's defense with a silly statement of support in this battle.

It read in part: "We stand by Chris and offer our full support in these trying times. Orbit's pattern of mischievous behavior can no longer go unchecked. We will provide Chris with all the water balloons and silly string he requires."

The Astros were unimpressed by the solidarity the Rays showed with Archer and retweeted it with only one word: "Oh."

No word on exactly what the pair has planned for future dustups.

Cubs issue World Series championship ring to Bartman

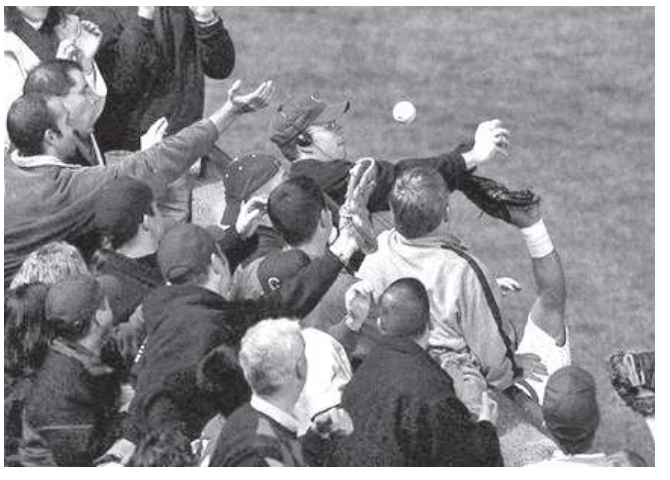
CHICAGO (AP)—Having ended their title drought, the Chicago Cubs want their most notorious fan to share in their good fortune.

The Cubs announced Monday they were giving a World Series ring to Steve Bartman, who deflected a foul ball that might have landed in left fielder Moises Alou's glove with Chicago five outs from the World Series in 2003.

Bartman was harassed after the incident and has avoided the spotlight since. Chicago beat Cleveland last fall for its first championship since 1908.

The Cubs say they "hope this provides closure on an unfortunate chapter" and Bartman "continues to be fully embraced by this organization."

Bartman released a statement saying he is "deeply moved and sincerely grateful." He praised team owners the Ricketts family and management, and called the ring a reminder of "how we should treat each other in today's society."



AP
In this Oct 14, 2003, file photo, Steve Bartman, top center, catches a ball as Chicago Cubs left fielder Moises Alou's arm is seen reaching into the stands, at right, against the Florida Marlins in the eighth inning during Game 6 of the National League championship series Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2003, at Wrigley Field in Chicago.

"My hope is that we all can learn from my experience to view sports as entertainment and prevent harsh scapegoating, and to challenge the media and opportunistic profiteers to conduct business ethically by respecting personal privacy rights and not exploit any individual to advance their own self-interest or economic gain," he said. "Moreover, I am hopeful this ring gesture will be the start of an important healing and reconciliation process for all involved."

The Cubs said they "hope this provides closure on an unfortunate chapter."

"While no gesture can fully lift the public burden he has endured for more than a decade, we felt it was important Steve knows he has been and continues to be fully embraced by this organization," he said. "After all he has sacrificed, we are proud to recognize Steve Bartman with this gift today."

General manager Jed Hoyer said it's "impossible not to look at him in an incredibly sympathetic way." He said Bartman was "in the wrong place at the wrong time" and his life has been "dramatically impacted indirectly by the Cubs organization, by this franchise, for 14 years."

"All that animosity, any scrutiny he gets, I hope that's gone," Hoyer added. "In some ways, it should never have been there in the first place. It's not a high point in Cubs history that this unsuspecting fan had his life altered by that foul ball. And now I think if giving him a ring and issuing statements and us winning the World Series allows that to go away, I think that's wonderful."

Basa: Fiji trip to show positive results

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Athletics coach Preston Basa is optimistic the 6th Oceania Area Championships in Fiji made a positive impact to him and the seven athletes that competed from June 28 to July 1 at the ANZ National Stadium in Suva.

Veterans Beouch Ngirchongor and Zarinae Sapong and newcomers Leani Acosta, Riella Ann Billy Ichiou, Jamie Pangelinan, Traven Quitugua, and Annalei Santos joined Basa in the trip to Fiji.

Basa, who is among the newest coaches being groomed by Northern Marianas Athletics development officer Elias Rangamar, said continuing the development of the two veterans and exposing the rookies were the purpose of the trip.

"The team performed well considering that we were not able to train the way we wanted to due to the renovation of the track. Development and experience were the purpose of the trip, which I believe our athletes were able to get out of the competition," said Basa.

"Overall, our athletes performed great and are only going to get better from here on out," he added.

He said the athletes even found the initiative to train by themselves once they were back on Saipan. "The athletes began training, which they planned on their own. The competition has positively impacted our athletes and has motivated them to continue their training in preparation for the next competition."

Basa said he wouldn't abandon coaching in basketball but would rather train his young cagers to improve their skills with the help of athletics. "Coaching in athletics and basketball is not easy, and both are very technical."

"However, training for athletics would definitely produce great basketball athletes if they were taking part in both. Athletics builds coordination, speed, strength, and power; all of which are beneficial for basketball players."

He added that he's still learning with the help of Rangamar and other coaches that were ahead of him. "I really enjoy both and look forward to learning and growing more as a coach."

Rangamar, in an earlier interview, said aside from keeping track of the seven athletes' personal bests they also monitored the performances of representatives of the CNMI's island neighbors that would compete in the 2018 Micronesian Athletics Championships.

Saipan will be hosting the sixth edition of the MAC from June 14 to 16. 2018. This will only be the second MAC since 2016 after a seven-year absence.

Team *Debbie I* reels in biggest marlin

For the captain of the *Debbie I*, the 33rd Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament was only the second time that they joined this competition. In 2012, at the 28th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament, captain Roque Chaco and his crew took home the second place trophy for the Mahi Mahi category.

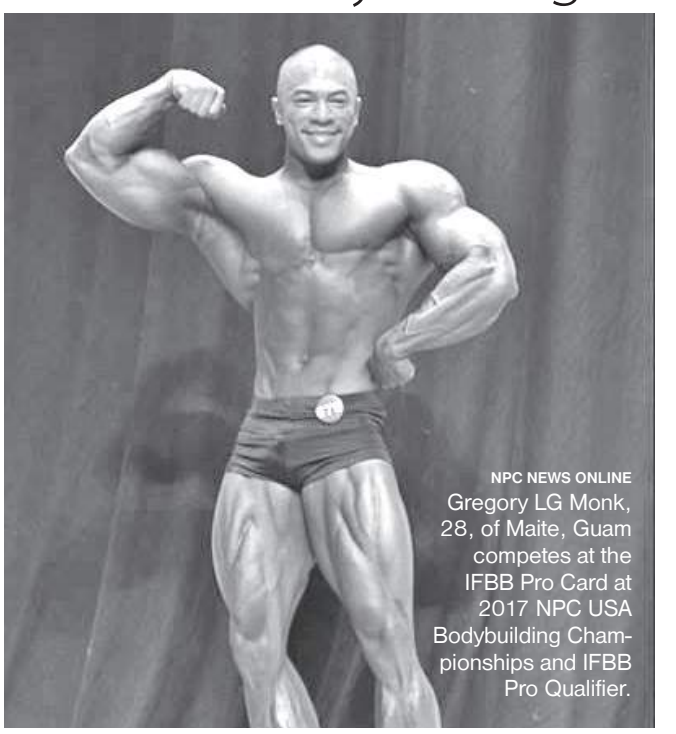
Chaco said, "Saipan showed us great hospitality." He added, "That's the reason we make the trip [from Guam] to join the Saipan tournament."

On the second day of the 2017 Saipan International Fishing Tournament, Chaco and his sons Randal and Ray, together with anglers Romy Magan and brother Anthony, reeled in a 384.5-lb marlin, beating out the 344.5-lb marlin caught on the first day by Team *Aquaholics*. "It was a big relief after losing three marlins on Saturday and one marlin on Sunday morning," said Chaco.

More than 1,700 lbs of marlins were caught during the two-day tournament. Out of the 64 boats competing for the grand prize, only eight were lucky enough to land a marlin, and seven of those boats are from Saipan.

Saipan Fishermen's Association president Gene Weaver said, "We're so grateful for the participants who drove their boats from Guam for the tournament." He added, "It's also nice to see their families and friends who joined them on Saipan to help cheer them on." ***(PR)***

Guam's Monk triumphs in mainland bodybuilding tilt



NPC NEWS ONLINE
Gregory LG Monk, 28, of Maite, Guam competes at the IFBB Pro Card at 2017 NPC USA Bodybuilding Championships and IFBB Pro Qualifier.

LAS VEGAS, Nevada— Gregory LG Monk was named Classic Physique Class C Champion at the 2017 NPC USA Bodybuilding Championships and International Federation Bodybuilding (IFBB) Pro Qualifier held last July in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The event was held last July 29 at the University of Las Vegas. Also in July, Monk was named Classic Physique Overall Champion at Jon Lindsay's 2017 Patriots Challenge.

Monk embarked on his fitness journey competing locally and winning middleweight division at 2010 Michelob Ultra Guam Bodybuilding, second place at the 2011 middle weight division, second place middleweight division at the 2012 Michelob Ultra Guam Bodybuilding, light heavy division champion at the 2013 Michelob Ultra Guam Bodybuilding, competed at the 2014 NPC Emerald Cup in Seattle, light heavy division champion at the 2016 Michelob Ultra Guam Bodybuilding, second place at the 2016 Emerald Cup in Seattle, and competed at the 2016 NPC Miami National Bodybuilding Championships.

Monk, 28, of Maite, Guam, is a personal trainer at Paradise Fitness and is the co-founder of COR-6 and COR-4 fitness programs.

For more information, contact Monk at 760-208-5251. ***(PR)***

SBL to open new season Aug. 28

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Baseball League is set to open its 2017 Summer/Fall season on Aug. 28,. Over-40 Masters and Under-25 are the age groups with the schedule of games to be determined by the number of teams that would compete in each division.

The division that would attract at least six teams would play every Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, while the one with the least would have Tuesdays and Thursdays for its schedule.

Defending Masters division champions GSM, Papa Bears, BSI, and the Bolleros have confirmed their participation while three teams showed interest in competing for the U25 crown.

SBL Inc. league director Tony Rogolifoi is also informing all teams that would join the 2017 Summer/Fall season to look for their respective sponsors to help them defray the league expenses—entry fee, uniforms, and equipment.

The league entry fee is $1,000 and should be made payable to SBL Inc. Deadline of payment of the entry fee is before 5pm on Aug. 25, Friday, and there won't be any extension. Rogolifoi is also encouraging all teams to contact him to reserve a slot.

Rogolifoi said another meeting is scheduled for both divisions next week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room. He is advising everyone to stay posted for the announcement of the date and time of the meeting.

Entry fees, uniforms, ground rules, equipment, and other related matters would be discussed in the meeting. Waiver and roster forms can be picked up at the Oleai Sports Complex office.

For more information, contact league director Rogolifoi at 234-6672 or 285-3966.

TEEN

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ers have to understand team concept, tactics, and communication. We have to improve in those aspects while we are having the training camp," the head coach said.

"I would also like to see who has more team spirit and will stand up for the squad against the strong players of Korean and Japan. With these, the coaching staff will have an idea who will be ready for the AFC tournament," Mita added.

The AFC U19 Championship 2018 Qualifiers will run from Oct. 31 to Nov. 8, with the CNMI to play against Australia, Hong Kong, and North Korea.

"Since we are in same group with North Korea in the AFC U19 tournament, this would be a good simulation match. North Koreans play direct soccer and they are physically and mentally very strong. I expect that we will play similar type of teams in South Korea. We will play against a youth squad of K- League team. I hope this game will be a good test match for us," the Teen Ayuyus coach said.

The venue for the AFC qualifier has yet to be announced. There are nine other qualifying tournaments across Asia and the top finishers in each competition along with the five best second place teams will advance to the finals.

TRACK

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condition once it was again awarded the Level II certification by the IAAF and with Saipan also set to host two major international sporting events.

The IAAF certification is needed so the CNMI, through the Northern Marianas Athletics, could bid and host IAAF-sanctioned events. Saipan will be hosting the 2018 Micronesian Athletics Championships, while the 2021 Pacific Mini Games will also be held here.

"We need to make sure there is some sort of control with the use of the facility, since they just finished resurfacing the track. We would also want to remind the public that once the track opens, we're going to implement rules and other guidelines," said Rogolifoi.

Rangamar also said that the public should also give priority to the athletes who are training with lanes 1 to 4 reserved for their use and lanes 5 to 8 for walkers and joggers.

CNMI

From Page 28

"The tournament in Guam will be a good test for our team. It will gauge how far have we gone since we started training early this year," Iakopo said.

The squad began training last March and since majority of the players are new to the sport, Iakopo said they started from the basic.

"We went back to the fundamentals and then gradually work on their skills," said Iakopo, who is counting on coach Viliame Kaitabu in handling the squad's training sessions and is also working with board member John Blanco for the team's other needs in preparation for the tournament in Guam and in Vanuatu.

The 2017 Heineken Guam Rugby Sevens will be the first actual competition for Iakopo and company and he is hoping that the games will give the team the needed confidence.

"Right now, they are uncertain on what it will be like to play in an official game. So, once we get there and play, somehow they would realize that it's just the same thing as what we've been doing in our practices. The matches in Guam will give them confidence to go out there and prove that we belong to this sport because we've been training and working hard to get better and keep up with top teams," Iakopo said.

"The games in Guam will prepare us for the tough grind ahead in the Mini Games. We may get get run over, but we will stand up and fight back to represent our island well," he added.

Meanwhile, Iakopo and Blanco are spearheading a fundraiser on Aug. 22 at Naked Fish with the entire proceeds from the event going to the team's expenses for its Guam trip. Tickets to the fundraiser are only $25 each with free drinks and entertainment.

The local rugby group also welcomes companies and individuals who would like to support the CNMI team's participation in the Mini Games that will be held from Dec. 4 to 15. Besides the Commonwealth, 12 other countries, including powerhouse New Zealand and Australia, and 2016 Olympic gold medalist Fiji, will join the rugby 7s competition in Vanuatu.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	57	47	.548	—
Boston	58	49	.542	½
Tampa Bay	54	53	.505	4½
Baltimore	51	54	.486	6½
Toronto	49	57	.462	9

Central Division

Cleveland	57	47	.548	—
Kansas City	55	49	.529	2
Minnesota	50	53	.485	6½
Detroit	47	57	.452	10
Chicago	41	62	.398	15½

West Division

Houston	69	36	.657	—
Seattle	54	53	.505	16
Los Angeles	51	55	.481	18½
Texas	50	55	.476	19
Oakland	47	59	.443	22½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	63	41	.606	—
Miami	49	55	.471	14
New York	48	55	.466	14½
Atlanta	48	56	.462	15
Philadelphia	39	64	.379	23½

Central Division

Chicago	56	48	.538	—
Milwaukee	55	52	.514	2½
St. Louis	52	53	.495	4½
Pittsburgh	51	54	.486	5½
Cincinnati	42	63	.400	14½

West Division

Los Angeles	74	31	.705	—
Arizona	60	45	.571	14
Colorado	60	46	.566	14½
San Diego	47	58	.448	27
San Francisco	40	67	.374	35

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CNMI Players at Summer Soccer Camp in Hong Kong

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Youth players from the CNMI join members of the Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong's Elite U13's parents squad for a group photo after their game. The match was part of the visiting group's summer soccer camp in Hong Kong.

CNMI players listen to the instructions of Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong's Taketomo Suzuki.

CNMI players do stretching drills.

CNMI players pose for a photo at the entrance of Hong Kong Disneyland, which was one of the places they visited during their two-weeklong stay in the former British colony.

Players of Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong's Elite U13's parents squad warm up, while CNMI players do the same thing near the sidelines.

A Hong Kong player, left, joins CNMI players in a training session.

CNMI players gather for a photo during a visit at the Ocean Park.

CNMI players practice their dribbling skills.

Gonzalez loses no-hit bid in 9th, Nationals beat Marlins, 1-0
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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Darvish, Gray dealt on busy trade deadline day
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Track still closed; NMSA to charge small fee

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The newly resurfaced Oleai track oval remains closed and is expected to open either in December or early next year since the decade-old facility is scheduled for minor improvements.

The resurfacing of the track finished last June and the Northern Marianas Sports Association is waiting for the International Association of Athletics Federations' Level II certification.

The Oleai track and field stadium was the only Level II certified eight-lane facility in the region, but the facility deteriorated over the years.

The track was set to open later this month, in early September, or once IAAF releases the certification. NMSA staff Elias Rangamar, however, said the opening would be delayed with NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifoi planning to improve the dirt and grass of the football pitch at the same time fix the drainage system and replace the fence.

There are portions of the pitch that are uneven and packed hard. A different mower must also be used to in the maintenance of the grass once it is replaced, to avoid a different type of grass and weed to grow.

NMSA would then start charging a small fee for joggers, runners, or walkers who would be using the track oval once it opens again. NMSA is already charging minimal fees for the use of the other facilities inside the Oleai Sports Complex.

Rogolifoi said the fee would only be minimal, similar to the one they are charging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium weight room.

"We're also reminding the public that the track is still closed and we're waiting for the IAAF certification. Once we open it to the public, we're going to start charging a fee for those who would use the facility," said Rogolifoi.

"We won't be charging that much. The money collected will help us with the maintenance of the facility since NMSA is now a private and non-profit group," he added.

The Division of Sports and Recreation, under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, used to manage the sports complex's operations with Rogolifoi as former director.

The government turned over the maintenance and operations of the sports complex to NMSA in 2013.

Rogolifoi said NMSA would keep the track in top

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The familiar pink hue is again seen after resurfacing of the Oleai Sports Complex track oval was done last June. JON PEREZ

Teen Ayuyus face Korea, Japan teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI U18 Boys National Team will leave Saipan this Sunday to participate in a soccer festival in Busan, South Korea.

"The teams that will participate in the festival are in the top youth level in Japan and Korea," said head coach and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last Monday.

Mita, who will be assisted by Jershwin Angeles and Jonathan Takano, will bring a 20-player team to the festival. The list includes Eun Syu Hahn, Terrance Evan Thosert-Belcher, Sunjoon Tenorio, Mareko Tekopua, John Michael Rojas, Ryan Relucio, Dai Podziewski, Alex Park, Clayron Izuka, Joshua Galarion, Anthony Fruit, James Ermitanio, Joshua De Leon, Carlson Cruzat, Jonathan Capayas, Louis Calayag, John Joseph Bucayo, Thaiphi Austria, Chris Aninzo, and Joshua Abragan.

The festival is part of the Teen Ayuyus' training camp in Korea and they will stay there until Aug. 10. The team will have the off-island training camp to get ready for the AFC U19 Championship 2018 Qualifiers. Mita said the festival will provide the squad the test matches they need and will give the coaching staff an idea where they are at as far as their preparations for the Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned competition are concerned.

"The Japanese and Korean teams are not only good teams, but they are also individually better than us. If we play individually, we don't have a chance against them, so we have to play as a unit. To make it happen, all the play-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI U18 Boys National Team's Ryan Relucio, right, is slightly warded off by a Hualien FC player as they battle for the ball during the first half of their friendly game at the Hopwood Middle School Field late last month.

CNMI rugby team off to Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rugby players in the CNMI will compete in the 2017 Heineken Guam Rugby Sevens that will be held later this month.

NMI Rugby Federation president Stanley Iakopo, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, said 15 players will head down to Guam to participate in the Aug. 26-27 tournament that will take place at the University of Guam. These players are part of the 20-man pool and are vying for slots on the CNMI National Rugby Team that will compete in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu this December.

Iakopo added that the tournament in Guam will feature several squads from the host country and teams from the Philippines, Japan, and China.

See CNMI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members and officials of the CNMI rugby team run a play during a training session yesterday at the CPA Airport Field.